

Firing up the legal briefs

Medical marijuana patients file federal lawsuit; Oakland club heads back to court.

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Nurse on a mission

Steve Keith hopes to archive SFGH's Ward 5A items.

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LA story

Art, architecture, and Hollywood Forever. see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 42 • 17 October 2002

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Gay Games VI faces money woes

by Matthew S. Bajko

After months of rumors that Gay Games VI, to be held in Sydney the first week of November, was facing budget problems, organizers revealed this month that indeed they are hurting for cash.

Three weeks before thousands of gay athletes pour into the same stadium used for the 2000 Sydney Olympics for the Opening Ceremonies of the Games, the organizing committee has disclosed it needs \$1.5 million (Australian dollars) in order to finance the Games' preparations and is searching for a backer to guarantee a bank loan.

"I can't guarantee sitting here right now that a Mardi Gras situation won't occur, but I can guarantee that absolutely every effort is being made to ensure that we monitor our cash flow, that we look at whatever savings we can make," said Sydney 2002 co-chair Bev Lange, as quoted in an October 10 *Sydney Star Observer* article.

Lange was referring to the recent announcement that Sydney's Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras celebration had gone bankrupt and would cease to exist after this year. Lange had served for three years as the president of the Mardi Gras celebration before joining the Gay Games board.

"I think if you look around it's not an indulgent organization," added Lange. "Things are continuing to be done, and have been done for a long time, on the smell of an oily rag. I don't believe that there's an ounce of fat in the organization."

The announcement throws the future financial viability of the Games into question, and ends hopes that the Sydney Games would not be marred by the same financial problems that plagued the Amsterdam Games in 1998.

During those Games, the director was fired for mismanagement and the city of Amsterdam ponied up a \$2.5 million loan to ensure the Games were not canceled. The debacle in Amsterdam followed in the fiscal missteps of the New York Games in 1994 and the Vancouver Games in 1990, which both suffered losses.

The recent stumble by the Australian hosts is only the latest in a series of problems haunting the Sydney Games, which date all the way back to when the Federation of Gay Games awarded the right to host the competi-

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Jane Philpot/Celand



Building community

AGUILAS Inc., the largest Latino gay and bisexual nonprofit organization in the Bay Area, hosted its ninth annual awards ceremony October 7 at Mecca Restaurant. Board chair John Marez said that more than 250 people attended the benefit, which raised almost \$40,000 for the group's AIDS awareness activities. Honorees were, from left: Gary Nathan of *Spectrum* newspaper (media award), Prado Gomez of *Proyecto Contra SIDA Por Vida* (organization award), Sam Garza (volunteer of the year award), Daniel Arcos and Jenny Rodriguez of the Mission Cultural Center (cultural award), and Rafael Diaz, PhD, who received the Hank Tavara Community Service Award.

Chris Daly leads in District 6 money race

by Joe Dignan

Incumbent Chris Daly is leading all his challengers in money raised for the District 6 supervisorial race, according to reports filed with the San Francisco Ethics Commission. As of October 1, he had raised almost \$72,000 for a contest where candidates who have accepted city funding for their races have agreed to a spending cap of \$75,000 for the general election on November 5.

"My donations come mainly from everyday San Franciscans," Daly said.

Daly said that his major supporters have been labor unions, "I'm endorsed by the SF Labor Council and the building trades unions," he said.

Another major Daly donor is millionaire landlord Clint Reilly. Reilly, who ran against Mayor Willie Brown in 1999, has given Daly a total of \$1,500 under the names of three separate entities. Daly has staked out a political turf opposing the pro-business, pro-development mayor on a wide range of issues.

City funding has become a major factor in the race. This is the first election in which candidates can be eligible to receive funds from the city. Daly has received \$26,840, or approximately one-third of his total.

To qualify for city funds, candidates had to have raised \$7,500 from individual San Francisco residents in small increments from \$10 to \$100 by August 9.

The program is intended to make it easier for challengers not backed by large donors to enter city races.



RICK GERMANER
District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly

The only other District 6 candidate to qualify for city funding was lawyer Michael Sweet, who had raised \$59,583 as of the first of October, according to city records. Of that amount, approximately 45 percent, or \$26,840, was city money.

"Public financing has been a great asset to this campaign. Instead of having to focus our efforts on raising money, we have been able to spend most of our time listening to the voters and communicating our vision of better leadership for District Six," said Sweet.

Sweet has benefited from contributions from fellow lawyers, at least one landlord group, and business interests. "I'm a lawyer, they're my friends," Sweet said.

Citrin credits Sweet's success to his network-building work as a neighborhood advocate in South Beach, where he lives, and to his contacts in the legal community.

As of the October 7 filing deadline, the rest

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Gay prisoner's struggle for life – behind bars

by Ed Walsh

For Mark Smith, the last five years have been a struggle for life, and at times, a struggle to die – at home.

"I don't want to die here," said an emotional Smith in an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* from the California Men's Colony prison in San Luis Obispo, about halfway between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Smith, along with another gay prisoner, Robert Rosenkrantz, is at the center of California's debate over parole. Each was found guilty of second-degree murder for unrelated homicides in Los Angeles County in 1985.

Smith, 47, suffers from AIDS, dementia, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, and cancer.

"Sometimes I just feel like shit, and I wonder if I'll ever wake up," Smith said, adding that he's known people who have died in prison with just one of the diseases he suffers with.

"I have to wonder how long I have," he said.

Smith was diagnosed with AIDS about seven years ago and was diagnosed this year with Parkinson's disease. He also suffered a severe heart attack about two years ago.

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Emperors reunite
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Berkeley tackles hate

by Zak Szymanski

Berkeley city officials, and others, including local LGBT leaders, are inviting the public, particularly the LGBT community, to take part in helping resolve what they call "a triple whammy": three hot issues affecting how the city handles hate crimes and discrimination.

Last week, the bulletin board of the Pacific Center for Human Growth — Berkeley's longtime LGBT community center — was vandalized with hateful graffiti that included the word "Fag" and a swastika. A vigil was held on October 10 to oppose the vandalism, but that was simply the first step, according to Berkeley City Council member Kriss Worthington, who is helping to organize a public meeting to address hate crimes against all populations on Thursday, October 24.

"In the past year there have been dozens of powerful vigils and rallies and events to respond to hatred against a particular community, but this community meeting wants to bring all the different communities together to support the victims and focus on how we can prevent hate incidents and hate crimes," said Worthington.

He noted that recent alleged hate crimes have targeted Arabs, Asians, Jews, Latinos, African Americans, and the LGBT commu-



Activists in Berkeley held a candlelight vigil after recent vandalism at the Pacific Center.

Jane Philomen Oleland

nity, who are actually a presence in the other communities as well.

Next Thursday's meeting is at 6:30 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Avenue, and is a cooperative effort between the City Council, the Berkeley Police Department, and other organizations, Worthington said.

Also on the City Council agenda, as discussed at a meeting on Tuesday, October 15, is how to handle the millions of dollars of federal funds that stand to be lost due to the Berkeley school system's anti-discrimination policies. Berkeley's broad policies that ban any discriminatory group from its schools conflict with President Bush's new federal law, designed in part to force schools to allow the homophobic Boy Scouts of America on campuses. The federal law dictates

that schools receiving federal funding must allow the Boy Scouts, the military, and any other group deemed beneficial to youth to be a part of school programming.

Worthington wants the city to tackle the Boy Scouts issue by seeing whether the city can build coalitions with LGBT-friendly local Scouts and the Scouting for All organization to put more pressure on the national Boy Scouts of America to change its stance on gay scouts.

At press time, the City Council was expected to approve a proposal to designate city staff to work on these two issues that deal with discrimination.

To get involved with Berkeley's efforts to combat hate and discrimination, attend next week's meeting, or call (510) 649-9206 for more information. ▼

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VALLEJO

HellBall party returns

by Matthew S. Bajko

HellBall, San Francisco's gay Halloween circuit party, is coming back with a vengeance next weekend, after going into hiatus last year when organizers could not secure a venue for the event.

This year, the New Heritage Foundation has planned a whole host of events surrounding the sixth HellBall, themed "Revival, Can't Stop the Music." Doubling as an AIDS charity fundraiser, the dance party will help raise funds for Maitri and Continuum.

"It's really exciting to see it come back and come back even stronger than before," said HellBall co-producer Jim Lightsey. "The reason for the theme this year is you can't stop the music to HellBall itself. But you also can't stop the music to the AIDS crisis itself, which is still not over. That has been the focus of HellBall from the very beginning."

Founded in 1996, HellBall is a nationally known Halloween weekend event in San Francisco that has raised more than \$100,000 for AIDS related charities since its inception. Last year, despite only hosting the March of Light, the organizers were able to raise \$5,000 for AIDS organizations.

"With this year's cutbacks in AIDS funding, it is more important than ever to raise the necessary funds to keep San Francisco's AIDS service organizations in operation," said Don Spradlin, founder of the New Heritage



The scene at HellBall V

Foundation. "In response to this need, the New Heritage Foundation has added a number of events leading up to HellBall in an effort to expand our fundraising efforts, and provide additional services to the San Francisco AIDS impacted community."

Added to the HellBall lineup are several other dance parties throughout the weekend, as well as the second annual March of Light, a Halloween parade modeled after Disney's Electrical Main Street Parade. Unlike last year, when the event took place Halloween night, this year's march will occur the Saturday night prior to Halloween, before the start of HellBall.

The march will begin at Dolores Park and snake its way toward the Castro, ending at the intersection of 18th and Castro streets. CalFed and dance music radio station 92.7 FM The Party will sponsor the parade, and organizers expect 1,500 marchers to take part this year.

"This is a healing and celebra-

tion opportunity for the GLBT community to celebrate life on the day of the dead," said Lightsey. "We still feel this is a viable alternative to the chaos that takes place on Halloween. Once Saturday night becomes Halloween night, we would propose to do it on Halloween."

The March of Light will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, October 26 from the park. For more information on the parade or to enter as a contingent, visit www.marchoflight.org.

HellBall will take place after the parade from 10 p.m. until 5 a.m. and will be held at the Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannon Street.

Tickets to HellBall cost \$60 general or \$85 for VIP passes. An all-weekend pass costs \$125 and includes admission into the Friday party "Launch," and numerous other parties on Sunday.

For more information on HellBall and its related weekend of events, and where to purchase tickets, visit www.hellball.org. ▼

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AIDS fund hires its first executive director

by Matthew S. Bajko

As the AIDS Emergency Fund prepares to mark its 20th anniversary next month, the former all-volunteer driven agency welcomed its first permanent executive director last week.

Mike Smith, who co-founded the NAMES Project Foundation in 1987 and has spent the last four years as executive director of the LGBT Community Center of Colorado in Denver, began work in his new role on Monday, October 7.

"My job here is to professionalize the organization," said Smith.

While Smith will receive \$90,000 his first year, he said his hiring will not change the nature of the agency, which has always championed the fact it is volunteer run and based.

"By bringing me on we are not changing the total overhead budget of the agency. We are just spending the money on a full-time executive director rather than on part-time consultants," said Smith. "The outcome will be because we have a permanent executive director, we will be able to do a better job fundraising."

While he said he is excited to return to the Bay Area in his new role, he acknowledged his job will not be easy. The agency's fiscal needs are climbing while dona-



AEF Exec. Director Mike Smith

tions are declining.

During the first six months of this year, the fund has experienced a 10 percent increase in the number of clients served compared to its usual annual increase of 5 percent. The fund expects to serve more than 3,300 clients this year compared to 3,000 last year.

To cover its growing deficit, which could reach \$600,000 by year's end, the board of directors has dipped into the agency's reserves. In addition, the fund announced this spring it was changing how it awards grants to those people living with HIV or AIDS.

First time applicants seeking one-time grants to cover such things as housing or medical costs could still receive \$600 from the fund, but returning applicants saw their grants reduced by \$200 to

\$400. The agency is currently debating how to define which emergency situations faced by people with HIV or AIDS warrant its awarding of a grant.

In addition to Smith having to replace longtime staff members who have retired from the agency, he comes on board during a particularly rough economic environment for Bay Area nonprofits. The agency had difficulties finding corporate sponsors for the anniversary gala it is hosting on November 20. And while the community continues to throw smaller events on behalf of the fund, those fundraisers are not generating the same returns as in years past.

"We have been operating with interim employees because we wanted to leave the next executive director with a clean slate so he could pick his own team and determine which positions needed to be changed, added or subtracted in order to get the work done," said Ralph Petersen, president of the fund's board. "His hiring is a great jumping off point for us as we evaluate the organization's mission and how we go about accomplishing it."

Despite the challenges he faces, Smith said he is confident he can help the agency survive and help it find new revenue sources. If his past achievements are any indication, Smith is certainly qualified

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Pride picks a new prez

by Zak Szymanski

Pride may come just once a year, but things are always in motion for the San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration Committee, which just elected a new board president in Radical Faeries member, healthcare worker, and longtime activist Joey Cain.

Cain, 47, will lead the Pride board's upcoming year in its role to perform community outreach, oversee the festival's finances, and handle big policy issues and procedures, such as grand marshal selections, event additions and inclusions, and other logistics. His main priority, he said, is to "close the gaps" – both literally and figuratively.

"I want to close the actual physical gaps in the parade in terms of the look of the celebration," Cain told the *Bay Area Reporter*, referring to the recurring problem of large spaces between the marching contingents and lags in the parade. "We've identified that not closing First Street is the main factor in these gaps, because a lot of traffic continues to get through there. And the gaps are upsetting when there are five or six of them at 20 minutes apiece."

On a more metaphorical note, said Cain, "closing the gaps" will also mean bridging the space "between people who think it's only a party and those who think it's only political."

"I firmly believe that you have



New Pride Prez Joey Cain

to have both, and that it's always been that way," he said, noting that at the Stonewall marches, "We were angry, but we also partied."

Cain is employed at the Haight Ashbury Free Clinic in its substance abuse treatment services program, and comes with an im-

pressive résumé of more than 25 years of community organizing, from his involvement with the Gay Liberation Front, the Radical Faeries, and the Bound Together Anarchist Collective Bookstore to his membership in Amnesty International and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. In 1995, he was one of 11 New Year's Eve arrestees who filed a lawsuit against the San Francisco Police Department resulting in the city agreeing to implement police reforms. And currently, he is part of the caregivers circle for LGBT movement pioneer Harry Hay and his partner, John Burnside.

"I am honored to be chosen by the diverse and talented members of the Pride board as their president," said Cain. "The San Francisco LGBT community is recognized throughout the world for its leadership on issues of diversity, freedom, and social justice. The Pride celebration should be, and is, a reflection of those values."

Next year's Pride celebration takes place over the June 28-29 weekend. ▼

Two bi conferences this month

by Liz Highleyman

Two conferences on bisexuality will take place later this month.

The third annual Bisexual Men's conference will convene October 18-20 in San Diego. The three-day event, hosted by the Bisexual Foundation, will bring together bisexual and bi curious men from across the country to discuss their concerns – including feelings of invisibility and societal pressures to remain closeted – in a safe, supportive environment.

The conference will include a dozen workshops on a range of topics including coming out, relationships, spirituality, health, and the issues of bi men of color, bi married men, and bi fathers. It is expected to be the largest gathering of bisexual and bi curious men ever held in the United States.

"This conference brings together bisexual and bi curious men from all over the country for a weekend of lively dialogue and cultural exchange," said Bisexual Foundation Executive Director Luigi Ferrer. "The conference builds on the emergence of the grassroots bisexual movement and the ever growing number of bisexual and bi curious men seeking a sense of community and shared understanding."

The conference will include a welcoming reception on Friday night and a banquet with live entertainment on Saturday evening. Ferrer will present the keynote address.

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Ward for assessor

San Francisco Assessor/Recorder Doris Ward is in a tough re-election battle as she heads to the November 5 runoff against ex-Supervisor Mabel Teng. Ward, a former supervisor herself, has done an able job over the years, and at a special ceremony last week, showed that she isn't afraid to take risks when it comes to furthering equality for same-sex couples. Ward deserves support from the LGBT community on Election Day.

As we reported in September – and what was made official October 10 – Ward has implemented a tax ruling that eliminates the inherent discrimination in property tax reassessments when the partner of a same-sex couple dies. Before last week, when such an incident occurred in San Francisco, the home shared by the couple was reassessed if a registered domestic partner died. Given California's skyrocketing property values, oftentimes a reassessment meant that the surviving partner saw his or her property tax bill increase by tens of thousands of dollars.

Married couples are exempted by state law from having their property reassessed when a spouse dies.

Ward's action, officially called the Registered Domestic Partners' Ruling, gets rid of that inequity. Gay and lesbian domestic partners who own property in San Francisco will be deemed equivalent to lawfully married spouses, and therefore, be entitled to the exemptions from reassessments under Section 63 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code.

Ward, who has spent much of her 30-year political career fighting for equal rights for all, has continued the San Francisco tradition of landmark laws when it comes to achieving equality for the LGBT community.

As most readers are aware, San Francisco led the way in the fight for equal benefits for same-sex couples if one partner works for a company that does business with the city and that company offers benefits to spouses of married employees. That legislation was promoted by the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club and sponsored by Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and his colleagues at the time, former Supervisor Leslie Katz and former supervisor and current Treasurer Susan Leal. All three gay and lesbian politicos fought for the law, and after its passage, a crack legal team led by former City Attorney Louise

Renne and her chief assistant, Dennis Aftergut, successfully defended it in court.

San Francisco also led the fight to provide transgender health benefits for eligible city workers. Supervisor Mark Leno took the lead on that piece of legislation, and after many delays and an intensive lobbying effort by both the Milk Club and the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club, the ordinance was adopted.

Ward signed her new ruling last week, and told the audience gathered for the event that the change will go into effect "immediately."

"I've fought for human rights for a long time. I've fought for civil rights for a long time. This is right. This is fair. This is equitable," Ward said. "That's what equal protection of the law means."

We agree. And we're not the only ones. The Milk Club's Debra Walker was on hand for the signing ceremony, as was Ammiano. Pointedly, Ammiano recalled that when his partner died eight years ago, he wished the new law had been in effect.

Editorial

"This is definitely a good step forward," Ammiano said. "I commend the assessor's office for its vision."

It should be noted that Ward has come under some criticism for missteps she made earlier in the campaign. She has apologized to voters for using public funds to help pay for a newsletter mailed as part of her re-election campaign and has repaid the money. Ronald Chun, one of her opponents in the March primary, in July was hired by Ward as her chief deputy. It was Chun, in fact, who played a behind the scenes role in development of the property tax ruling.

Ward's current opponent has no experience in running a city department such as the assessor's office. In fact, her whole campaign seems geared at getting her back in the public eye as an elected official. Teng narrowly lost re-election to conservative Supervisor Tony Hall in 2000, and has, in our opinion, been looking for a new gig since then.

We endorse Doris Ward for San Francisco assessor. ▼



Proposition N: Real care, not inadequate cash

by Supervisor Gavin Newsom

San Francisco's homeless policies have failed. More than 1,000 people have died on our streets in the last decade. Nearly half of those deaths were victims of drug and alcohol overdoses. The city is playing a role in their deaths, as long as we continue to hand out cash payments twice a month.

Our current homeless policy has been ineffective in improving the lives of homeless people. Under the General Assistance (GA) program, homeless individuals receive between \$320 to \$395 a month in cash. The current policy does not allow all our homeless to access the services San Francisco offers. And even \$395 is not enough money to live on in San Francisco.

There is no question that our current support system for the homeless is broken. Anyone who has walked our streets knows. We must change our system if we want to start saving lives. There is a better solution to our homeless situation.

Proposition N, the Care Not Cash initiative, will guarantee homeless people access to housing, including over 1,000 more single occupancy rooms the city has already identified for master lease. By reallocating some of the GA cash payments to housing expenses, we can provide our homeless population with the quality housing that they need.

Many homeless individuals suffer from drug addiction, alcohol abuse, and mental illness. Without help, they will continue to live desperate lives. With the cash GA payments under the current system, they will never be able to access the care that they so desperately need. Without this care, jobs will remain inaccessible, and the cycle of poverty and desperation will continue. Proposition N will direct the money the city currently pays in cash into enhancing drug treatment and psychiatric care for the homeless. With such treatment, our city's homeless population will be able to start on the road to healing.

In addition to mental illness and drug addiction, many of the homeless also suffer from a wide variety of health problems, for which they currently receive only emergency medical treatment. Proposition N will allow the city to create a system where the homeless get the medical care that they need, before it becomes a crisis. In the long run this will save the city money and begin to take some of the pressure off of our emergency rooms.

Many San Franciscans wonder about our homeless infrastructure's ability to provide these guaranteed services. While the city currently has many excellent programs to serve the homeless, increased capacity cannot be provided overnight. If the guaranteed

services are not available, homeless individuals will receive their original full cash payments.

Proposition N, Care Not Cash, is a long overdue reform that will save and improve lives. It is supported by the directors of public health and human services, the San Francisco Medical Society, Dr. Pablo Stewart of the Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Supervisor Mark Leno, and hundreds of medical professionals.

There is a solution to our city's homeless problem. The Care Not Cash initiative is part of it. I will not promise that homeless will disappear from our streets if we pass this initiative. I can promise that our homeless population will continue to suffer if we do not try to fix our broken

homeless system. Our city must stop subsidizing drug deals with General Assistance funds. The initiative is a first major step in the right direction, a step that has already proven itself in Chicago, New York, and Alameda County. We can no longer turn our heads away from the suffering on our streets. Our city must start helping its most desperate people break their cycle of hopelessness. ▼

Guest Opinion

For more information on Care Not Cash, visit www.carennotcash.org.

LETTERS

Editing bigotry

On an SF bus shelter, near Geary and Arguello, I found this fascist/fundi sticker: "Gay Is Sick. SHIT!"

I realized this bigot had failed to fully express himself, so I helped him out, by editing it to read: "Gay Is Sick." — signed A. SHIT!

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Friday's interesting

It is always interesting to read Wayne Friday's political column in the *Bay Area Reporter*. On local issues he is almost always "right on." I was pleased that he strongly endorses Bevan Duffy in District 8, which indicates, to me, that he probably feels that many of the members on the current Board of Supervisors are not very professional or effective ("Duffy for District 8 sup," October 10).

After attending the District 6 candidates meeting at Delancy Street where Chris Daly gave the finger to the audience and the ABCD [Anybody But Chris Daly] rally at city hall where Mr. Daly brought his mob to disrupt the meeting, it is obvious that District 6 needs a representative whom we can respect as a gentleman. Burke Strunsky, Michael Sweet, and Roger Gordon seem to meet this standard. They are well educated and each has experiences that would be helpful in finding solutions to many of San Francisco's problems. Mr. Strunsky's work as assistant D.A. has been admirable. Mr. Sweet has been an asset for the Rincon Point/South Beach area. Because the problems of the 6th Street/Tenderloin area appear to be most urgent, I feel that Mr. Gordon's service as executive director of Urban Solutions make him the most qualified candidate. He will be able to work amicably with the mayor and other members of the board of supervisors.

I like a person who says he will "work for" rather than "fight for" something he feels is important.

Bob Dougherty
San Francisco

Experience matters

I've been following the candidates for supervisor in District 8. While all may be well-intentioned, only one offers the experience I think that's needed to address fundamental, quality of life issues. Bevan Duffy understands the frustrations that many of us feel. When he talks of his plans for addressing those concerns, his knowledge and experience stand out from the crowd.

Duffy's work as director of neighborhood services, combined with his chief of staff role for then-Supervisor Susan Leal, clearly has prepared him well for the Board of Supervisors. Add to that his Capitol Hill legislative experience and you have someone who is highly qualified for the job of supervisor. As impressive as that is, however, what appeals to me even more is that Duffy brings to the discussion of issues a passion and genuine commitment to addressing even the smallest of concerns affecting our neighborhoods.

When you get down to it, I want a supervisor who thinks, a supervisor who listens, and a supervisor who acts. I'm convinced that in Bevan Duffy we'd have the best of all possibilities.

John Whitehead
San Francisco

Important distinctions in Dist. 8

I want to let people know that there are important distinctions between the candidates in District 8. Eileen Hansen has experience in the nonprofit, queer, labor, and AIDS movements. As a nurse who has been involved in AIDS care and union organizing over the years, I would particularly welcome somebody such as Hansen with the savvy to handle the epidemic that hasn't gone away. Now that our president has caved to the corporations on the waterfront and wants to wage war on Iraq, it is critical that we have somebody who stands with labor as well. And I would love to have a lesbian with such good politics on the Board of Supervisors. How's that for icing on the cake?

Sasha Cuttler, RN
San Francisco

Offended by stickers

I found it highly offensive that at the Castro Street Fair, Eileen Hansen supporters walked up to people they didn't even know and slapped "This Queen's For Eileen" stickers on them. I don't consider myself to be a "queen" and I would never vote for a candidate Tom Ammiano endorses for the Board of Supervisors. We need to get qualified people on the board — not people who will simply do whatever whining Tom wants.

Brian Geiger
San Francisco

Supports Hansen

As a gay man whose life has been enriched by the progressive attitudes of the Bay Area for 30 years, I'm

writing to endorse Eileen Hansen for supervisor in District 8.

This is not just a local election in a small city. The world recognizes California as a trend setter, while gay people look to San Francisco to demonstrate what is attainable. In the 1970s, I was honored to know George Moscone and Harvey Milk. More recently, I was one of thousands inspired by Tom Ammiano's mayoral race. While doing volunteer work for him, I met Eileen Hansen. Even in the midst of that hectic and transformative moment in our city's history, I recognized her as a person with the same admirable values as Moscone and Milk.

I wish to emphasize that I'm not closely involved with her campaign and know her only slightly. That said, I admire Hansen's personal integrity, negotiating skills, ability to admit fault, receptivity to creative input and record of compassion for the homeless, for people with AIDS/HIV, for young people in need, for renters, workers and the long term environmental and financial welfare of our city.

In 1968, I worked in Washington, D.C. for Dr. Martin Luther King until he was assassinated. And from 1965 on, I opposed the war in Vietnam when that was an unpopular position. Having dodged rocks from pro war bullies and bullets in the riots that followed King's murder, I know firsthand what it takes to take a stand. Throughout her career, Hansen has shown such courage. Nowhere was this more evident than in the early 1970s as a prominent anti-war organizer in her native Utah. And in the past 30 years, she has continued to build community. For these reasons, and others, I urge my friends and neighbors in District 8 to honor our legacy of progressive legislation and elect Eileen Hansen. As a supervisor, she'll do us proud.

Adrian Brooks
San Francisco

Lobbyist or activist?

Perhaps Bevan Duffy's new slogan should be "It's all about the money." At the recent Eureka Valley candidates' forum, Duffy was once again asked why he sided with Walgreens instead of neighborhood activists when the drug store chain was attempting to take over the historic Cinema 21. His response was: "I need to make money."

A candidate for supervisor who would sell out neighborhood activists trying to save one of the last single-screen theaters in the city is not "all about the neighborhood" as Duffy's campaign slogan claims. For Duffy, it was obviously all about the money. Duffy should come clean about who he is — a corporate lobbyist, not a neighborhood activist.

Brian Bartholomew
San Francisco

Hansen's principles grounded

I have been privileged to have known Eileen Hansen since the late 1980s, most notably from AIDS/HIV activism. Her principles are deeply grounded in a working philosophy that seeks to include all people in an engaging and diverse society of equality, justice, and opportunity.

To that end, we have worked together on various social causes over the years, including homelessness, health care access and services, women's rights and issues, and LGBT issues. Hansen's personality is one that encourages people to work with each other and her style is one that promotes such cooperation. She actually does listen when people talk with her and she gives consideration to their ideas. It has been my experience that she is deeply committed to affordable housing, creative solutions to homelessness, the rights of people of all sexual orientations, to a health care system that works for all, and to the values of a participatory democracy.

I have full faith and trust in Hansen's experience, her network of supporters, colleagues, friends, acquaintances, and professionals from many disciplines, as well as to the countless numbers of working people who support her candidacy. Her long-standing dedication to progressive values is one that San Franciscans in District 8 would do well to recognize in the trust tradition of Harvey Milk. She is a woman of the people who will represent us quite well. I am voting for Eileen Hansen for District 8 supervisor; she is the only choice that makes sense.

Reverend James C. Lovette-Black
San Francisco

N-9 warnings ignored

Thank you for the cover story concerning N-9 being removed from lubricants ("N-9 lube dead; N-9 condoms live on," October 10). Now when we will see the other chemicals used in lubricants getting the heave-ho? As I have written to you many times in the past and currently, but have been ignored, the current chemicals used in lubricants are flammable, cause severe irritation to the rectal lining, are carcinogenic, and immuno-suppressive.

Long before Michael Lauro's campaign, Dr. Clark

next page ▶

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Dems' Senate control hinges on a few states

by Wayne Friday

With the national news centered on the likely war on Iraq, the fortunes of the national Democratic Party, in particular its determination to hold on to control of the U.S. Senate, have not looked all that good recently.

With the current 50-49 Democratic edge, along with Senator Jim Jeffords (I-Vermont), who votes with the Democrats, political observers of both major parties agree that the outcome of the November 5 election and the result as to who controls the next Senate pretty much hinges on races in seven states.

For example, many analysts believe that New Jersey, once thought lost to the GOP, is now seemingly again safe for the Democrats. In recent polls, former Senator Frank Lautenberg (D) is ahead of or even with his GOP opponent, Douglas Forrester, after just entering the race two weeks ago following Senator Robert Torricelli's abrupt withdrawal last month.

Democrats have their best chance of picking up GOP-held seats in Texas and Arkansas, and now that the Iraq war vote is out of the way, Democratic strategists are determined to once again get the remaining two and a half weeks focused back on the economy, job security, rising unemployment, and the federal deficits. Even Republicans fear that now that the Iraq issue has been relegated to the inside pages for at least the time being – Bush can't go to war until after the elections – voters might be concentrating on other issues in the final days of the campaign.

A Democratic majority in the U.S. Senate in the next Congress could continue to frustrate the Bush domestic agenda, including his determination to continue appointing ultra-conservative judges.

Republicans control the House with a 223-208 majority, although some Republican leaders, including Arizona Senator John McCain, are privately predicting that the GOP will likely lose the House on November 5; many more, however, think a change in leadership there is unlikely.

The big battle is centered on the Senate, where both parties face possible losses by incumbents. Senator Tim Hutchinson (R-Arkansas) one of the Senate's most conservative members, and Senator Paul Wellstone (D-Minnesota) one of its most liberal, both trail challengers and if the election were held today, both would likely lose.

The Republicans' next big worry is Senator Wayne Allard of Colorado, whose race against challenger Tom Strickland, the Democrat, is considered dead even. The GOP seems to have improved its chances somewhat in New Hampshire, where Representative John Sununu is considered a better campaigner than the Democratic nominee, Governor Jeanne Shaheen, though that seat, currently held by a Republican, could go either way.

Democrats have to worry about possibly losing seats in

South Dakota, where Senator Tim Johnson is facing a tough challenge from the GOP's John Thune and in Missouri, where Senator Jean Carnahan is in a tough fight against ex-Representative Jim Talent to retain the seat she was appointed to after her husband's death two years ago.

In Iowa, Senator Tom Harkin (D), one of the most liberal members, was targeted for defeat by the Republicans and he was originally thought to be in trouble after a campaign scandal, but recent polls now show him looking safe in that contest.

With less than three weeks until Election Day, control of the Senate definitely depends on the states mentioned above. An early prediction from this corner? Democrats hold on to the Senate, possibly picking up one seat. The House of Representatives?

Control is somewhat less likely to change there, though Democrats will gain seats, but probably not the necessary net gain of six seats needed to take control. Additionally, one conservative, Democratic House member Ralph Hall, a Bush loyalist from Texas who often sides with Republicans on legislative issues, has reportedly promised the White House that in the event his vote became the decisive one for control of the House, he would vote for a GOP speaker.

Politics and people

San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno was feted at a fundraiser for his 13th District Assembly bid on Thursday, October 10 at the home of Jeff Anderson and Jeff Soukup. Assembly Speaker Herb Wesson (D-Los Angeles) made an appearance at the event, where he was, according to those there, "visibly and demonstrably excited about the fact that the two first openly gay men to arrive in Sacramento is happening on his clock." In addition to Leno, openly gay former Santa Cruz Mayor John Laird is expected to win his bid in the 27th Assembly District next month.

How they voted on George W. Bush's upcoming war on Iraq: Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California), saying her vote was "truly a troubled one," ended up voting with the majority for the resolution; Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California), voted against. As for the three openly gay members of Congress – Representatives Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin) and Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) voted against Bush's war, while Representative

Rick Gerhardt



Rick Gerhardt

Congressman Barney Frank

Jim Kolbe (R-Arizona) voted for the resolution.

Conservative columnist and perennial presidential candidate Patrick Buchanan gets it right once in awhile (well, actually he's right all the time). In Washington recently, he said that it's only Dubya Bush's war talk that is preventing a "GOP election wipeout" next month.

Ralph Nader, the millionaire consumer advocate and spoiler Green Party presidential candidate who gave us President Bush, was in town last week, taking to the radio-TV talk show circuit, all the while blasting Democratic Governor Gray Davis and uttering not a word about the anti-gay, pro-life, fellow millionaire GOP challenger Bill Simon. Nader and his fellow Green Party morons continue to be the most self-defeating phenomenon in politics today. After helping defeat Al Gore (do the Greens still think there is "no difference" between Bush and Gore?), now they have targeted Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone (D), probably the most left-wing and environmentally-friendly member of the Senate, making it quite possible that he will be replaced by Norm Coleman, the conservative former St. Paul mayor.

And to a recent reader, I answer no, I don't really expect the "leaders" (?) of the Harvey Milk LGBT Demo Club to change the name of that group to the Green Party LGBT Club anytime soon (they're not that honest).

It was a bad week for gubernatorial candidate Bill Simon, who thought that he had the proverbial smoking gun when he turned to Governor Gray Davis during their recent debate and appeared to be trying to put him on the spot with the question "Did you ever accept a campaign contribution while in your office?" (or something along those lines). Seems Simon is now "full of regret" about the charge, which turned out to be completely false, that Davis had accepted a check in his Sacramento office. The photo in question turned out to be one of Davis accepting a contribution in a private residence. The incident was yet another Simon campaign gaffe.

Mike Taylor, a Republican state senator in Montana who's the GOP nominee for the U.S. Senate, withdrew from the race last week, claiming it was because he was somehow "defamed" by the Democrats in a commercial that revealed that he was a hairdresser in a past life. Never mind that he was nearly 20 points behind Democratic Senator Max Baucus in the polls, Taylor complained bitterly that a commercial showing him in disco garb with exposed chest and gold chains was "playing off the old stereotype of men who work in the hair-care business; it's very clearly implied (I'm) a homosexual." Damn. I suspect that I know a couple of male hairdressers in San Francisco who just might be gay, but a homosexual hairdresser in Montana, how could that be? Democrats denied the gay-baiting charge, saying the ad accused Taylor of abusing student loan programs while he operated a hair design school in Colorado.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com.

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Victory from defeat

Ten years after Amendment 2

by Dale Carpenter

Ten years ago this fall, Colorado voters narrowly approved an amendment to the state Constitution repealing all existing civil rights protections for gays in the state and prohibiting them in the future. The passage of Amendment 2, as it was known, was hailed as a great victory for social conservatives and augured more such efforts in states around the country that would roll back the momentum for gay equality. Today, the unintentional result of Amendment 2 is that gay equality is on stronger ground than ever before.

Social conservatives in Colorado in the early 1990s, like social conservatives across the country, feared the rise of gay rights and the piecemeal erosion of what they view as "traditional family values." In Denver, Boulder, and Aspen, gay equality advocates had succeeded in getting their cities to adopt ordinances protecting gays from discrimination in areas like employment, housing, and public accommodations. State universities and some state agencies had taken similar steps to forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation. Social conservatives believe these measures signal approval of what they consider a

dangerous and immoral lifestyle.

As long as decisions about these matters were made at the local level in Colorado, gay advocates could successfully divert attention from the issues of job and housing discrimination that were at the heart of Amendment 2 and the laws it repealed.

Amendment 2 passed by a margin of 54 percent to 46 percent. Buoyed by this victory, social conservatives started anti-gay rights drives in more than a dozen other states.

But then something happened. Gays across Colorado and the nation mobilized politically in response to Amendment 2. Legal advocates sued to stop its implementation.

At the national level, the successes for gay equality since Amendment 2 are well known. The number of states protecting gays from discrimination has doubled, from six to 12. The number of businesses protecting gay employees from discrimination has risen exponentially. More and more employers extend health and other benefits to same-sex domestic partners. Unprecedented numbers of gay characters have flooded TV screens and movie theaters. On and on it goes.

The political strategy for anti-gay social conservatives was thus simple: take the issue of "gay rights" out of the hands of local communities (where, ironically, conservatives generally believe policy decisions should be made) and put them in the hands of voters statewide. This would dilute the political power of gays and of people familiar with gays by overwhelming them with votes from socially conservative voters unfamiliar with gays.

On the eve of the election, supporters of Amendment 2 distributed 800,000 flyers asserting, among other things, "homosexu-

als commit between one-third and one-half of all recorded child molestations." These claims were false but they successfully diverted attention from the issues of job and housing discrimination that were at the heart of Amendment 2 and the laws it repealed.

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The legal challenge to Amendment 2 resulted in the most gay-positive decision yet from the U.S. Supreme Court, *Romer v. Evans*, which held that the measure unconstitutionally denied gays the

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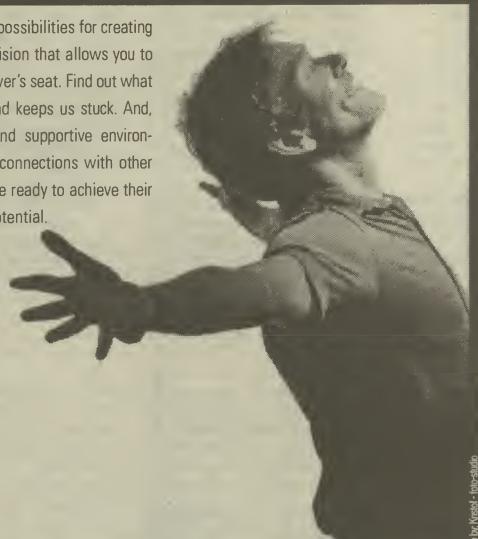


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COMMENTARY

Time for trans rights

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

There are some topics that just never seem to die. This is one of them.

For almost as long as I have been in transgender activism – about eight years – there has been an argument about just who should be included in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

Transgender activists feel that by excluding transgender-specific workplace coverage, you leave out a large part of the overall LGBT community for the sake of the rights of a portion of the community. Further, many postulate that as most workplace bias against gays and lesbians may well be based on gender-related issues along the lines of physical appearance and such, then an ENDA that does not include some coverage for gender identity or expression would leave a substantial loophole that could torpedo the overall effectiveness of the bill.

The Human Rights Campaign and the congressional sponsors of ENDA take a different tack. They look at ENDA as a bill that will likely only pass through our current Congress if it has a tight focus – “straight acting” gays and lesbians – and that getting it passed now will leave the door open for additional coverage later on. The view is that trying to convince Senate moderates to approve a bill that would give transgender employees the right to use employee bathrooms or showers opposite of their birth sex would simply be too much to ask for.

There is one false assumption on the part of ENDA’s framers. If a non-inclusive ENDA passes, there will be no coming back to pick up the rest of the bus – it would likely require a separate bill to cover transgender identity. Such a bill would be, in my opinion, even harder to get through Congress, and would likely stall the issue for decades.

This same “let us have this one and we’ll come back and get you” approach has been used in a similar fashion since at least the early 1970s, when it was provided in an attempt to get a gay rights bill



passed in New York City. For those keeping score, it wasn’t until 2002 that New York City covered transgender rights, and yes, this was largely on the back of local transgender activists – so much for “coming back to get us.”

Oddly enough, it is the Human Rights Campaign itself that raises a compelling argument regarding its second point against inclusion. In a recent poll commissioned by HRC, 67 percent feel that

transgendered behavior is a real occurrence (as if I couldn’t have told them this already), while 57 percent already thought that it was illegal to fire someone for being transgendered.

More telling is this number: 61 percent of the 800 people across the country who were polled agree that the U.S. needs laws protecting transgendered people in the workplace.

Sixty-one percent. Although math was never my strong suit, I do believe that is a majority – a little over six out of every 10 people, in fact.

HRC still does not feel that ENDA should be transgendered inclusive, however, in spite of its own poll. Some of my more cynical friends have gone so far as to speculate that HRC commissioned the poll initially to provide proof that most American citizens were not ready for transgender inclusion, but the result was opposite of what it had hoped for.

Instead, HRC has cautioned transgender activists to “go slow” on this issue, and not press for transgender inclusion in ENDA based on its own poll. In fact, some

have pointed to a cover letter that came with the poll results which suggests that even doing additional education on transgendered issues may skew these results downward – a chilling argument for an “ignorance is bliss” take on transgender education and advocacy.

Of course, my suspicion is that the language that HRC is using to communicate on behalf of transgendered people may well be flawed, and that there may be other, better avenues for that education than those given by this organization.

This is all personal for me. I am a transgendered woman, and I do know what it is like to have the door to employment shut in my face. After I transitioned and lost my job, it took more than a year to find another one – and I am firm in my belief that it was my own transgendered presence that caused me to lose out on literally hundreds of job opportunities. In our current economy, I am sure that there are scores of transgendered and gender variant people out there who are seeing their own job opportunities go down the drain, like liquid down a funnel.

They were not gender conforming in one way or another. As I mentioned above, this is the exact same thing that can affect any number of people who are not otherwise transgender identified, but are simply too “mannish” or too “effeminate” for their employers’ comfort level. I am sure you can see how this may well affect more than just those who are transgendered. ▶



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CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY...

Bagdad Cafe incident still baffles investigators

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco Police say they may never know why Jihad Alim Akbar brandished two butcher knives outside the Bagdad Café on Market Street last week, resulting in him being shot and killed by police.

Witnesses said that Akbar, a 28-year-old Oakland resident, had been muttering the words "fags," "homosexuals," and "white power" just after grabbing the knives from the restaurant's kitchen last Tuesday night, October 8. Witnesses and police said that the man was African Ameri-

can, so presumably his reference to white power was not meant to express support for it.

Lisa Schultz, the manager of Chow's restaurant on Church Street, said that although she is not certain, she believes that the man involved in the Bagdad incident was the same man who caused trouble in her restaurant on several occasions. She said the man called employees in her restaurant "dykes" and said derogatory things about white people.

Investigators said Akbar had a long history of confrontations with police. He was convicted of resisting arrest in Santa Cruz and Berkeley.

ley and of battering a police officer in Oakland. He was convicted of at least one drug-related charge after his arrest in Santa Cruz.

San Francisco Police homicide Inspector Tom Walsh told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the consensus among witnesses is that police had no choice but to shoot Akbar after the man lunged at them with the knives.

The officer who shot Akbar is Michael Celis. He had recently returned to work after being hurt in the June 17 car accident on Dolores and 17th streets that killed Jon Cook, the first openly gay San Francisco Police officer killed in the line of duty. ▼

Boston Globe joins papers listing DP ceremonies

by David Ryan Alexander

The *Boston Globe* joined a growing list of newspapers Sunday, October 13 by publishing the announcements of three same-sex couples' ceremonies in its "Special Occasions" section. According to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the inclusion of the *Globe* now makes 144 newspapers that print these announcements.

In a statement to readers on September 29, *Globe* editor Martin Baron, said, "In publishing such announcements, we are recognizing that they constitute community news of interest and importance to many of our readers."

He also stated that the decision was independent of the *New York Times*, the parent company of the *Globe*. The *Times* stated in August that it would begin publishing same-sex union announcements, and according to Baron has al-

lowed individual publications within the company to determine their own policies regarding listing the ceremonies.

The "Special Occasions" section of the paper will only run when space is available, which according to Baron, should be about every three or four weeks. Unlike the *Times*, which fully integrated its same-sex announcements with heterosexual wedding announcements, the *Globe* will print the civil union and commitment ceremony statements under a separate "Commitments" heading.

To be eligible for the "Commitments" section, same-sex couples must have an officiated ceremony or register their civil union or domestic partnership in a city, county, or state where it is legally recognized.

The change of policy at the *Globe* marks one more success story for GLAAD's Announcing Equality Project. The campaign, which officially launched when the *Times* made its statement in

August, aims to change newspapers' policies to include the publishing of same-sex union announcements.

GLAAD provides a list on its Web site of all the newspapers that have agreed to print the announcements. Monica Taher, western regional media manager for GLAAD, said that ever since the *Times* decided to change its policy, many other newspapers have quickly followed suit.

"Newspapers call us from as far as Alaska to ask when the Web site is going to be updated because they want to see their names on the list," she said.

In recent months, the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Washington Post* have also begun printing same-sex couples' ceremony announcements.

The *Bay Area Reporter* announced last month that it will accept announcements of domestic partner or civil union ceremonies as a new feature of the paper. ▼

Protest prison's HIV deaths Saturday

by Zak Szymanski

There have been three deaths in the HIV unit at Corcoran Prison in the last two weeks, according to prisoners' rights activists, who are demanding an investigation and better care for prisoners statewide.

"Three deaths in two weeks are extremely alarming and many more prisoners with HIV and he-

patitis C are deteriorating daily behind the walls of Corcoran Prison," said Judy Greenspan of the HIV/Hepatitis C in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus. "Prison officials are not only not granting compassionate release to terminally ill prisoners, they aren't allowing them to be transferred to hospice care, and these people are dying alone."

CPF, along with other community organizations, will demon-

strate in front of Corcoran Prison's front gate, 4001 King Avenue, this Saturday, October 19, at 2:30 p.m. to expose continued human rights abuses.

Protesters are expected to travel from around California to Saturday's demonstration; for more information, or to arrange transportation or get directions, call Greenspan at (510) 813-4687; Michelle Foy at (510) 593-7823; or Maria Telesco at (559) 255-9492. ▼

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Praise for Whipple dog-mauling book

by Ed Walsh

Joe Harrington recalls when Sharon Smith told him about the last moments with her partner, Diane Whipple. He was making dinner for Smith in her apartment. He remembers tears were streaming down his face as she told him of those final moments in San Francisco General Hospital on January 26, 2001.

Harrington's 525-page book, *Death of an Angel*, chronicles the deadly dog-mauling case that shook the Bay Area and made headlines around the country and around the world. While the book brings to life the intense emotions and the behind-the-scenes drama of the case, police and prosecutors are praising it for sticking to the facts.

"I don't consider this a true crime book," Harrington told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I consider it an issue book."

Harrington explained that the two main issues raised by the dog mauling case are the responsibilities of dog owners and the rights of same-sex couples.

"I really believe love is love. That's how I was raised," said the author, expanding on the latter issue.

Harrington, who is heterosexual, said he's already heard from a man who said that his book has changed his negative views on homosexuality and he hopes that will be one of the positives people take from his book.

"If you can change one person's mind, then the whole damn thing is worth it," he said explaining that

the desire to make a lasting positive change was one of the things that motivated him to write the book. "Writing is so frustrating you've got to have some perks."

Harrington spoke to the B.A.R. from Harrington's, his family's restaurant and bar in the Financial District. Harrington, 61, worked as a bartender there for 30 years before turning to writing in 1991. Although he gets back to his old business often, he currently lives with his wife in the Gold Country.

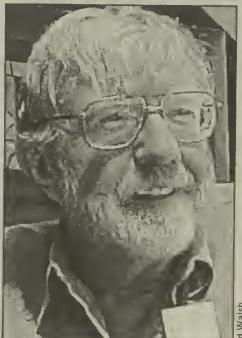
Harrington said his years as a bartender helped him become a better writer because it taught him how to listen without being too quick to jump to conclusions.

"You hear a lot of stuff in 30 years and if you rush to judgment you could get yourself into a lot of trouble," the author explained.

The police contacts Harrington established through his bartender work helped him get his start writing. His first book chronicled the Charles Ng and Leonard Lake mass killings in Calaveras County. Because of his contacts with the San Francisco Police and the dramatic elements present in the dog-mauling case, the subject was a natural for Harrington's latest book.

"You couldn't ask for better antagonists than [Robert] Noel and [Marjorie] Knoller [the dogs' husband-wife caretakers]," said Harrington.

The author's connection with police is evident in the inside view he gives from the perspective of one of the main investigators on the case, Lieutenant Henry Hunter. Hunter had high praise for the book.



Author Joe Harrington

"I loved it. I'm the hero. And some of it is even true," said Hunter with a chuckle when asked about the book. But he quickly added: "Everything in the book happened. It gives you a real good idea how we conducted the investigation."

The book details Hunter's tireless efforts with the case, often times bringing work home, while bizarre facets of the case unfolded in the media. Although the media often gets blamed for hurting police investigations, in the book, Hunter discusses how the media investigation helped their case by uncovering more information more quickly than police could do alone with limited resources.

Prosecutor Kimberly Guiffoye-Newsom also had praise for the book for going into the case in detail and staying true to the facts.

"It's a well-done, good book,"

the assistant district attorney said.

A good portion of the book details the struggle for same-sex partner rights by Whipple's partner, Smith. Although Smith initially cooperated with Harrington on the book, she later withdrew her support. Harrington said he was never quite sure why.

Smith's lawyer, Michael Cardozo, said because of everything going on in her life, Smith needed to concentrate on other things. Cardozo said the book was unauthorized by Smith and she would have no comment on it.

Whipple's mother, Penny Whipple-Kelly, said that although Harrington recently sent her a copy of the book, she has only read small sections of it because, she said, she's not ready to relive the attack and the trial.

Noel told the B.A.R. in a recent prison interview that although he's heard of the book, he hasn't seen it. Noel has been talking to another author, Aphrodite Jones, who is in the process of writing her own book about the case. Jones wrote a number of true crime books including the book about the Brandon Teena murder that eventually became the movie *Boys Don't Cry*.

Noel and his wife, Knoller, are expected to be released on parole in about a year. Both were convicted of involuntary manslaughter and keeping a mischievous animal that killed a person. Knoller, who was with the dogs during the hallway attack, was initially convicted of second-degree murder but San Francisco Superior Court Judge James Warren later threw it out.

Harrington said he believes that decision was "courageous."

The subtitle of his book is "The inside story of how justice prevailed in the San Francisco dog mauling case." Harrington said he disagrees with those who would say justice hasn't been done because the second-degree conviction was tossed out. He pointed out that the attorney-couple have been disgraced in the Bay Area and may permanently lose their licenses to practice law.

Harrington is donating half of the royalties from the sale of his hard cover book to the San Francisco Police Athletic League and the other half to one of Whipple's favorite charities, the American Cancer Society. Coincidentally, both Whipple and Harrington once suffered from thyroid cancer.

Harrington hopes to eventually make money on the soft cover sales of his book. He said he purposefully sought out a small company, Quantum Entertainment, to publish his book because he said he wanted to keep direct control over the book to keep it from being sensationalized. The cover contains the title with a simple blue background. Harrington said he was afraid that a major publisher would fashion a tabloid style cover. For the same reason, his book uses no photographs, besides, Harrington explains, virtually everyone has already seen pictures of the dogs, Noel and Knoller, and Whipple. ▼

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AIDS nurse preserves Ward 5A's history

by Zak Szymanski

Steve Keith has not rested since he retired from his full-time job earlier this month. One of the original nurses at San Francisco General Hospital's Ward 5A — the country's first inpatient AIDS care unit — Keith now spends his days sorting through the dozens of piles of memorabilia and historical items that he has collected from the ward over the years.

"I have 10 scrap books, about 15 different communication logs, and 20 boxes of loose materials," said an enthusiastic Keith, 50, who has always viewed his role at the ward as both caregiver and historian.

"From the beginning I think we all knew we would be a part of a significant chapter of medical history. A lot of people kept diaries," said Keith, recalling the ward's earliest days after its founding in 1983. "It became a mission early on for me to document the experience, and to let the world know that this was a group of 13 nurses that got this thing going, and they created an incredible place."

Ward 5A began as a renegade wing of the hospital that overlooked limits on visitation, showered its patients with donations of fancy robes and baked goods, and was often a mixture of humor and grief, a last stop for the outrageously flamboyant and professional gay men alike.

The collection of 5A history will be organized, cataloged, and

then placed in the San Francisco Public Library, hopefully by July 25, 2003, which will mark the ward's 20th anniversary. But to complete the project, Keith needs to raise money — about \$12,000 more to supplement the two \$5,000 grants he has already received from hospital foundations.

"I'm trying to buy archival supplies and organize all this stuff. I estimated it would take about \$22,000, so I'm halfway there in terms of fundraising," said Keith. "I believe it's important to make

other terminally ill people thanks to drug advances that have kept many AIDS beds empty since the mid-1990s. And only through artifacts like the communication books — logs, notes, and interactions passed among the staff — is it possible to grasp what it was like to navigate hundreds of lives through an epidemic before there was extensive research or protocol.

"The communication books are the nuts and bolts of these archives," said Keith. "When we learned something about a drug,

"From the beginning I think we all knew we would be a part of a significant chapter of medical history. A lot of people kept diaries."

all this stuff available to the public."

Many news stories have featured Ward 5A and recognized it as the model for AIDS wards across the nation.

"From the beginning, they decided to touch their patients, hold them, and cry with them at a time when food servers were leaving food on trays in the hall and doctors suited up in masks and gowns to talk to AIDS patients," a *Washington Post* article summarized in 1989.

But while the bigger mission was never lost, Keith pointed out, it was the daily details that made 5A what it was (and still is, although today the ward serves

we would write it down and pass it on. When doctors wanted to treat terminal patients aggressively, and the nurses felt those patients should not be put through a lot of tests, there was negotiation back and forth on those pages.

"There are notes on upcoming trials for drugs, and news about drugs that actually killed people in trials, so you get to follow the whole roller coaster over each new treatment 'breakthrough.' There are also sections in there that deal with the first time we all got tested for HIV, before the test was even available to the public, and how we mobilized around staff members who got sick."

Three of the original nurses at



Jane Philomen Cleland

Ward 5A nurse Steve Keith was all smiles just before his retirement earlier this month. Keith is now raising money to archive materials from the nation's first AIDS inpatient care unit at San Francisco General Hospital.

Ward 5A are now dead, said Keith, two from AIDS and one due to breast cancer.

From those who are still alive, Keith plans to collect oral histories to add to the archives, which already include photographs; pages of the names of the dead and their diagnosis dates; and videos of broadcasts that featured life at the ward.

"People's lives were changed when they passed through 5A," said Keith. "The place had an impact: on patients, families, visitors, and volunteers." ▼

To assist with the archives project, whether through donating money or Ward 5A materials, call (415) 565-7965.

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What is KALETRA and how does it work?

KALETRA is a combination of two medicines. They are lopinavir and ritonavir. KALETRA is a type of medicine called an HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor. KALETRA is always used in combination with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. KALETRA is for adults and for children age 6 months and older.

HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) develops.

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- You should stay under a doctor's care when taking KALETRA. Do not change your treatment or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.
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- Do not change your dose or stop taking KALETRA without first talking with your doctor.
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- Be sure to set up a schedule and follow it carefully.
- Only take medicine that has been prescribed specifically for you. Do not give KALETRA to others or take medicine prescribed for someone else.

What should I do if I miss a dose of KALETRA?

It is important that you do not miss any doses. If you miss a dose of KALETRA, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose.

What happens if I take too much KALETRA?

If you suspect that you took more than the prescribed dose of this medicine, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately. As with all prescription medicines, KALETRA should be kept out of the reach of young children. KALETRA liquid contains a large amount of alcohol. If a toddler or young child accidentally drinks more than the recommended dose of KALETRA, it could make him/her sick from too much alcohol. Contact your

local poison control center or emergency room immediately if this happens.

Who should not take KALETRA?

Together with your doctor, you need to decide whether KALETRA is right for you.

- Do not take KALETRA if you are taking certain medicines. These could cause serious side effects that could cause death. Before you take KALETRA, you must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or are planning to take. These include other prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal supplements.

For more information about medicines you should not take with KALETRA, please read the section titled "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA."

- Do not take KALETRA if you have an allergy to KALETRA or any of its ingredients, including ritonavir or lopinavir.

Can I take KALETRA with other medications?*

KALETRA may interact with other medicines, including those you take without a prescription. You must tell your doctor about all the medicines you are taking or planning to take before you take KALETRA.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH KALETRA:

- Do not take the following medicines with KALETRA because they can cause serious problems or death if taken with KALETRA.
 - Dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, Ergotrate Maleate, Methylergine, and others
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 - Versed® (midazolam)
- Do not take KALETRA with rifampin, also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®. Rifampin may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.
- Do not take KALETRA with St. John's wort (hypericum perforatum), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease KALETRA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to KALETRA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV medicines.
- Do not take KALETRA with the cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin) because of possible serious reactions. There is also an increased risk of drug interactions between KALETRA and Lipitor® (atorvastatin); talk to your doctor before you take any of these cholesterol-reducing medicines with KALETRA.

Medicines that require dosage adjustments:

It is possible that your doctor may need to increase or decrease the dose of other medicines when you are also taking KALETRA. Remember to tell your doctor all medicines you are taking or plan to take.

Before you take Viagra® (sildenafil) with KALETRA, talk to your doctor about problems these two medicines can cause when taken together. You may get increased side effects of VIAGRA, such as low blood pressure, vision changes, and penis erection lasting more than 4 hours. If an erection lasts longer than 4 hours, get medical help right away to avoid permanent damage to your penis. Your doctor can explain these symptoms to you.

- If you are taking oral contraceptives ("the pill") to prevent pregnancy, you should use an additional or different type of contraception since KALETRA may reduce the effectiveness of oral contraceptives.
- Efavirenz (Sustiva™) or nevirapine (Viramune®) may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood. Your doctor may increase your dose of KALETRA if you are also taking efavirenz or nevirapine.
- If you are taking Mycobutin® (rifabutin), your doctor will lower the dose of Mycobutin.

- **A change in therapy should be considered if you are taking KALETRA with:**
 - Phenobarbital
 - Phenytoin (Dilantin® and others)
 - Carbamazepine (Tegretol® and others)

These medicines may lower the amount of KALETRA in your blood and make it less effective.

• Other Special Considerations:

KALETRA oral solution contains alcohol. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or planning to take metronidazole or disulfiram. Severe nausea and vomiting can occur.

• If you are taking both didanosine (Videx®) and KALETRA:

Didanosine (Videx®) should be taken one hour before or two hours after KALETRA.

What are the possible side effects of KALETRA?

- This list of side effects is not complete. If you have questions about side effects, ask your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist. You should report any new

or continuing symptoms to your doctor right away. Your doctor may be able to help you manage these side effects.

- The most commonly reported side effects of moderate severity that are thought to be drug related are: abnormal stools (bowel movements), diarrhea, feeling weak/tired, headache, and nausea. Children taking KALETRA may sometimes get a skin rash.

- Blood tests in patients taking KALETRA may show possible liver problems. People with liver disease such as Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C who take KALETRA may have worsening liver disease. Liver problems including death have occurred in patients taking KALETRA. In studies, it is unclear if KALETRA caused these liver problems because some patients had other illnesses or were taking other medicines.

- Some patients taking KALETRA can develop serious problems with their pancreas (pancreatitis), which may cause death. You have a higher chance of having pancreatitis if you have had it before. Tell your doctor if you have nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain. These may be signs of pancreatitis.

- Some patients have large increases in triglycerides and cholesterol. The long-term chance of getting complications such as heart attacks or stroke due to increases in triglycerides and cholesterol caused by protease inhibitors is not known at this time.

- Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) occur in patients taking protease inhibitors such as KALETRA. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients need changes in their diabetes medicine. Others needed new diabetes medicine.

- Changes in body fat have been seen in some patients taking antiretroviral therapy. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

- Some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding with protease inhibitors.

- There have been other side effects in patients taking KALETRA. However, these side effects may have been due to other medicines that patients were taking or to the illness itself. Some of these side effects can be serious.

What should I tell my doctor before taking KALETRA?

- **If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant:** The effects of KALETRA on pregnant women or their unborn babies are not known.

- **If you are breast-feeding:** Do not breast-feed if you are taking KALETRA. You should not breast-feed if you have HIV. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your doctor about the best way to feed your baby. You should be aware that if your baby does not already have HIV, there is a chance that HIV can be transmitted through breast-feeding.

- **If you have liver problems:** If you have liver problems or are infected with Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C, you should tell your doctor before taking KALETRA.

- **If you have diabetes:** Some people taking protease inhibitors develop new or more serious diabetes or high blood sugar. Tell your doctor if you have diabetes or an increase in thirst or frequent urination.

- **If you have hemophilia:** Patients taking KALETRA may have increased bleeding.

How do I store KALETRA?

- Keep KALETRA and all other medicines out of the reach of children.
- Refrigerated KALETRA capsules and oral solution remain stable until the expiration date printed on the label. If stored at room temperature up to 77°F (25°C), KALETRA capsules and oral solution should be used within 2 months.

• Avoid exposure to excessive heat.

Do not keep medicine that is out of date or that you no longer need. Be sure that if you throw any medicine away, it is out of the reach of children.

General advice about prescription medicines:

Talk to your doctor or other health care provider if you have any questions about this medicine or your condition. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor. Your doctor or pharmacist can give you information about this medicine that was written for health care professionals. Do not use this medicine for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not share this medicine with other people.

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Military recruiters more visible at law schools

by David Ryan Alexander

Military recruiters have recently been granted greater access to private law school campuses, despite efforts by gays and lesbians in the Bay Area and across the country to prevent them. A new interpretation of the Solomon Amendment by the Department of Defense threatened to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars from law schools, such as Stanford, if access was not provided. Earlier this month students at Yale and Georgetown universities held demonstrations protesting this new interpretation.

For years private law schools have denied access to military recruiters on the grounds that their practice of discrimination against homosexuals conflicted with the schools' non-discrimination policies. Schools have now been forced to bend their policies or make special arrangements for the military. Stanford Law School was forced to provide special interviews to military recruiters.

The amendment states that the military must be granted equal access in quality and scope to any other employers who interview students. At Stanford Law, employers are not invited to participate in recruitment activities unless a certain level of student interest is present.

According to a memorandum sent by Stanford Law School Dean Kathleen Sullivan on September 26, for the first time this year, enough students expressed just such interest. Stanford had no choice but to find a resolution in the context of its non-discrimination policy.

Sullivan said that though the student showing of interest in JAG Corps interviews for the first time met our threshold - we decided to adhere to our policy by declining to sponsor the interviews but to refer interested students to the University career placement office to arrange their interviews."

In response to Sullivan, several Stanford law students sent their own memo in support of the military, saying that they "do not necessarily support the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' policy, but do agree that any such objection does not rise to the level of opposing on-campus recruitment for our nation's defenses."

The current controversy has only affected private law schools. Public schools, having been more heavily reliant on federal funding, were forced to concede to the new regulations years ago. In an interview, John Dwyer, dean of the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Law School, expressed his continued disapproval of the amendment.

"These policies are both hurtful to the nation and hurtful to our students," he said.

University of California, Hastings, another Bay Area law school, has also been affected by the amendment. The school has been forced to add a caveat to its non-discrimination policy: "A limited express exception to this policy is made by the Hastings board of directors for the U.S. military on the grounds that the military's practices to date have been upheld under current judicial interpretation of the discrimination laws."

Initially, the Solomon Amendment was interpreted in such a way



Stanford Law School Dean Kathleen Sullivan

that only an individual school at a university could potentially lose funding if it did not allow access to the military. The more recent interpretation of the statute declares that any individual school in violation of the amendment could result in the entire university losing federal funds. These funds come from the Departments of Defense, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Education as well as other related agencies.

For Stanford, this augmentation meant a world of difference. The law school originally faced a loss of \$500,000. When the amendment was reinterpreted to incorporate the entire university, Stanford suddenly was threatened with an annual loss of \$700 million.

Yale University faced a similar fate. Yale Law School receives no federal funding, but the university as a whole receives approximately \$300 million annually. About 90 percent of these funds go to medical and health research and services. Less than 3 percent of these funds actually originate from the Department of Defense.

To facilitate these changes, Yale Law formed a campus organization called the Student/Faculty Alliance for Military Equality. Law student Matt Alsdorf, a spokesman for SAME, explained, "As students we understand the position the university has been put in, but this is totally unconscionable for the Bush administration to be playing with in order to promote discrimination."

He went on to explain that the goal was not to keep the military from coming to campus but to protect the law school's non-discrimination policy, and thus ensure that students were not discriminated against.

"What's different this year is that they have become more strict in their interpretation of the Solomon Amendment. The military felt more confident they could threaten to cut off funds, and thought now was an opportunity to push their social agenda onto universities," said Alsdorf.

Yale has always offered some level of student access to the military either in the form of providing student information or coordinating individual meetings with students. What has come under increased pressure recently are the official recruiting programs to which the military has still been denied access.

According to Richard C. Levin, Yale University president, Yale has "temporarily suspended the application of its policy of requiring a non-discrimination certification from military recruiters," so they could participate in the fall recruiting programs. Yale plans to

appeal the Defense Department's ruling that it is not in compliance with the Solomon Amendment, either through administrative procedures or in the federal courts.

An official from the Department of Defense said that "equal access for recruiters to law schools and all schools for that matter is crucial to ensuring we attract a diverse and highly qualified applicant population." This diverse population, however, will not include any homosexuals because of the DADT policy.

An August 28 *Boston Globe* article reported that there were 1,250 gay and lesbian discharges in 2001. This is an increase from years prior to the DADT policy.

Although the Solomon Amendment prohibits any denial of military recruiters to all colleges and universities, it has been a particular point of contention for law schools. Many universities across the country do not include sexual orientation in their policies. Due to a guideline administered by the American Association of Law Schools, however, all of the member schools, which consist of nearly every law school in the country, must include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination policies.

Other universities that have recently altered their policies to allow military recruiters onto their campuses include Harvard University, New York University, and the University of Southern California. ▼

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Medical marijuana patients sue feds

by Liz Highleyman

Two medical marijuana patients filed a lawsuit against the federal government last week, seeking to halt the recent spate of Drug Enforcement Administration raids against California medical cannabis providers.

Angel McClary Raich and Diana Monson allege in their October 9 lawsuit that federal attacks on medical marijuana patients and providers violate the Fifth, Ninth, and 10th amendments to the Constitution. In addition to the patients, two anonymous caregivers who grow cannabis for McClary Raich are also parties to the suit.

McClary Raich uses cannabis

to relieve pain, nausea, wasting, and seizures related to brain cancer, scoliosis, and other conditions.

"The government has waged a civil war against sick, disabled, and dying Americans," said McClary Raich at a news conference held last Wednesday in Oakland to announce the suit. "If cannabis works for us, we should be able to have that medicine." She continued, "Nothing else relieves my pain and allows me to eat and maintain my weight. My doctors agree that without medical cannabis I will die."

Monson suffers from chronic back pain. In August 2001 her home was raided by the DEA and her six cannabis plants were seized.

"I resent the federal government trying to turn me into a criminal on this issue," Monson told reporters. "I am not a criminal."

The lawsuit, which names Attorney General John Ashcroft and DEA head Asa Hutchinson as defendants, requests an injunction against enforcement of federal drug laws in cases related to the cultivation or possession of marijuana for medical purposes as allowed by California law.

The plaintiffs are supported by Alameda County Supervisors Keith Carson and Nate Miley and openly gay Berkeley City Council member Kris Worthington. Dr. Mitch Katz, the out gay head of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, also offered his support.

"We believe that recent statements by federal authorities ... have infringed on the rights of patients to use cannabis and on the rights of doctors to recommend it by creating an environment of fear," wrote Katz in a statement. "Patients should be allowed to use medical cannabis under the guid-

ance of Proposition 215 without concern of repercussions by the federal government."

The California Supreme Court ruled in July that patients who use medical cannabis with a doctor's recommendation are protected under Proposition 215, the 1996 Compassionate Use Act. The U.S. Supreme Court, however, ruled in May 2000 – in a case involving the Oakland Cannabis Buyers Club and other Northern California medical marijuana dispensaries – that the federal Controlled Substances Act makes no exceptions for medical use.

In issuing the U.S. Supreme Court decision, Justice Clarence Thomas noted that several constitutional issues remain unresolved, including whether the federal government has the right to interfere with intrastate commerce and a citizen's right to use marijuana to relieve pain.

The Constitution gives the federal government jurisdiction over commerce between states. Medical marijuana advocates contend that this does not cover cannabis that is grown and used within a single

state.

"For the federal government to attack patients and caregivers for activities that never cross state lines is an absolute violation of the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution," said Robert Raich, an attorney for the plaintiffs. Robert Raich married Angel McClary Raich this past summer.

Medical cannabis advocates have high hopes for the patient lawsuit and others like it. Following the U.S. Supreme Court loss, the OCBC is going back to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to pursue its case on new grounds including states' rights arguments similar to those put forth in the patients' lawsuit. The first briefs are due in early November. Raich is also an attorney in the OCBC case.

"I suspect this is our best chance for some immediate progress and relief," said Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. "We won't get it from this administration or this Congress; the federal courts are our best bet." ▼

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Gay Games VI

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tition to the Aussies. The first problems arose in 1997, when the federation expected the Sydney committee to pay a \$1 million (U.S.) license fee for the right to host the games and both sides disagreed on when the payments should be due.

The federation eventually lowered the fee to \$650,000 and agreed to set the due date after the conclusion of the Games. Federation officials have said they expect Sydney to break even and pay the license fee in full.

Leadership for the Sydney Games has also been a problem, with the host committee's CEO being a revolving door position. Geoffrey Williams, who became the second CEO and took office only 17 months before the start of the Games, resigned without explanation in July, less than 100 days before the start of the event.

Last summer, an internal memo leaked to a gay sports Web site revealed the Sydney committee feared its effort to host the Games was in such disarray that another city might have to step in to ensure the 2002 competition took place. Games officials responded that their concerns had to do with the old leadership, which had been replaced.

The 2002 event's cultural component and Opening Ceremonies have also erupted into brouhahas for the host committee. Robyn Archer, the head of the cultural festival, resigned in 2001 when it

was determined there would not be a large enough budget to cover her original plans.

The Games' director of ceremonies, Ignatius Jones, also had to quell a near mutiny by European and American participants who were upset they would not be a part of the Opening Ceremonies until the very end of the program. Rumors that the athletes would march into the stadium at the end had circulated via e-mail, prompting some competitors to call for a boycott. Jones scuttled those rumors when he told Sydney's gay newspaper that the plans had always called for the athletes to march in at the beginning.

"The whole thing opens with this enormous theatrical effect, which the athletes create by doing nothing else but walking in," Jones told the *Star Observer* this month.

Games organizers have also had to contend with a weak global economy, problems attracting corporate sponsors, and a drop-off in tourism after the September 11 terror attacks. While organizers told the *Bay Area Reporter* last month that security would not be an issue, the recent bombing in Bali – a six-hour flight from Sydney – has renewed questions about the safety of the international gathering.

Adding to the Sydney organizers' headaches was an Australian report released earlier this year that found gay bashings in the country to be unusually cruel and often do not lead to harsh penalties for the perpetrators. One expert said such attacks were viewed as "sport" by young Aussies.

The latest snafu for Sydney Games officials occurred last month when they learned the \$3 million in revenue generated from ticket sales to Games events would not be available until after the Games.

According to the *Observer* report, the money is unavailable due to government laws and the company, Ticketek, is holding it in trust until after the conclusion of the Games. It remains to be seen if anyone will step forward to guarantee the loan needed to pay for the Games up-front costs.

Various Australian government entities have said they will not underwrite the event. But a spokesman for the federation told the *B.A.R.* that Sydney officials have met with government and corporate leaders to discuss their monetary predicament. An announcement about the outcome of those meetings is expected soon.

"Sydney 2002 has said repeatedly there are no cuts planned that will affect the cultural program or athletic program at the current time," said Jake Stafford, the federation spokesman.

The host committee also made a plea this month to the local gay community in Sydney to buy tickets for both the sporting events and circuit parties planned around the Games to help boost revenue. The Games budget had called for \$9 million in ticket sales. However, with sales averaging only \$250,000 a week, the total revenue would amount to \$4 million, leaving the Games with a \$5 million deficit. ▶

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Marin gay center celebrates 20 years

by Matthew S. Bajko

The Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns is off to see the wizard this Saturday, October 19, as it celebrates two decades of ensuring that Marin County is a safe haven for LGBT residents.

To mark its 20th anniversary, the center is throwing an Emerald City Ball fundraiser to support its programs for community members and social service providers. The San Anselmo-based social service agency will also honor its founder, the Reverend Janie Spahr,

and celebrate its receiving the 2002 Beryl Buck Award in Achievement from the Marin Community Foundation.

The Buck Award focused on promoting nonviolence this year and the foundation awarded it to Spectrum for its work within the Novato Unified School District. For the last four years, Spectrum has worked with the Gay-Straight Alliance Network to create a climate of acceptance and understanding of GLBT students within the Novato district and has supported students organizing gay-straight alliance clubs in schools throughout Marin County.

District 6

◀ page 1

of the field has not done nearly as well in fundraising as Daly and Sweet. The reports cover money raised this year, through October 1.

Wild card

The major wild card in the race is Burke Strunsky, who has raised \$34,112, records show. While Strunsky has also loaned his campaign the city-mandated maximum of \$15,000, campaign finance rules allow a candidate to give his campaign any amount, and Strunsky's father, Airport Commissioner Michael Strunsky, is an heir to the Gershwin fortune.

"We got a very late start on fundraising," Strunsky said. "But I will personally give money to the campaign with the idea that I will be beholden to each and every constituent equally and their best interests: If I'm elected I will not have any political baggage or owe anything to any special interest groups."

"First and foremost we have a lot of volunteers. I think we are out on the streets more than any other campaign. We're getting one vote at a time in this campaign. I've been on the street an average of eight hours a day."

"My platform is very progressive. It's oriented to providing quality homeless services, affordable housing and other interests that benefit lower income constituents," Strunsky said.

Another candidate, Arthur Jackson, has raised \$38,473, of which \$15,000 is a personal loan from himself, records show.

"I didn't take advantage of any city funds," Jackson said. "We've raised the money from business colleagues and nonprofit colleagues. For me to take city funds, that's something I would not do. You raise the money from people who believe in your candidacy, not from city coffers where the money could be better spent."

Challenger Roger Gordon has brought in \$33,285, but has not taken any loans, according to city documents.

"I'm feeling pretty damn good," Gordon said. "I don't think the money is going to help anyone. We're not taking any public money. Our average donation is \$75-100. This is a pretty 'rootsy' campaign."

Of the four other candidates both Robert Power and James Leo Dunn have taken in less than \$1,000. The other two, Garrett Jenkins and Malinka Moye, had failed to file required financing reports with the Ethics Commission as of press time. In a phone interview, Jenkins said he had collected \$2,760. Moye was not available for comment.

The two top money-getters, Daly and Sweet, also have the highest remaining balances in their campaign coffers. Daly has nearly \$50,000 in his war chest. Sweet has \$35,000.

The rest of the candidates have been spending as fast as the money has come in, records show. Gordon has about \$7,000, Jackson has less than \$6,000, and while Strunsky's campaign is running nearly on empty at the moment with only \$1,600 in the bank.

But according to UC's Citrin, while money may help, it doesn't guarantee victory. "The hypothesis is that the person with the most money wins just isn't correct. Obviously money matters, and if there are huge discrepancies, then it might matter more. But incumbents generally have more money than their challengers, and if you're in a good position to do good or ill, organizations try and give you money," Citrin said. "But I think the role of money is ambiguous."

Citrin's idea is borne out by the Ethics Commission's records. Since 1998, when the commission started keeping computerized records, all of the candidates who raised the most money in heavily contested supervisorial races, except one, Mark Leno, ultimately lost at the polls.

The 2000 election, Citrin said, was a "Brown versus anti-Brown" situation. You don't need to know much more than that. People with the money could be linked to him."

Citrin said that money matters most in races where many voters are undecided and where the candidates are not known.

So for each candidate, getting their supporters to the polls on Election Day may mean the difference between making the runoff or not — and that effort requires volunteer manpower.

"Turnout's going to be the most important factor in this race, given what we know from our polling," Daly said. "In a district

The Emerald City Ball will feature comedy wizard Karen Williams, DJ Page Hodel, and a performance by the Lollipop Guild of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. The evening will include food and a silent auction.

The ball will take place from 7 p.m. to midnight at the Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro Road, in San Rafael. Costumes based on the Wizard of Oz are encouraged.

Tickets cost \$85 per person and can be purchased by calling (415) 457-1115, ext. 333. For more information visit the center's Web site at www.spectrummarin.org. ▼

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Telephone & Fax 415.788.1707

Longtime Dist. 6 resident seeks super seat

by Zak Szymanski

If you're among the countless people who have sought temporary or full-time employment in recent years, chances are you've met with Arthur Jackson, founder of Jackson Personnel, which has put thousands of people to work.

Jackson's business is something he is proud of, for the way it helps people to earn better livings, and for its 32-year history in his district. But the supervisorial candidate for — and 12-year resident of — District 6 also has an extensive background in community service and public health: for more than six years he has served on the San Francisco Health Commission, with five terms as budget chair, and three terms as president, the only African American to hold that post. While on the Health Commission, he has participated in the passage of needle exchange and has fought for confidentiality around HIV/AIDS information. Jackson has also served on San Francisco's welfare-to-work pro-

gram, on the San Francisco Commission on Aging, on the board of directors of the San Francisco Senior Centers, and as a board member of the United Way.

Jackson is facing incumbent Supervisor Chris Daly and seven other challengers in the November 5 election.

It is true commitment to community service — something he characterizes as a way of life rather than a hobby — that sets him apart from the other candidates in the district, he said.

"The intangible is that you care about people one at a time and you don't bunch them in a group," said Jackson of his approach to people, and therefore government. "I love this town. I love the people. I've lived in extraordinary times with extraordinary people, and we need a supervisor who can meet challenges, take risks, and achieve success. We need someone who has earned this job and respects everybody."

That person, believes Jackson, is himself, particularly because of his experience.

"Service delivery is something



Candidate Arthur Jackson

I understand in a way that no other candidate in the district does," said Jackson. "When candidates talk about 'the homeless' they should be saying 'our entire community's involvement with every person in our district,' because cleaner streets are critical to very aspect of this district.

"I heard a candidate talk about getting the homeless 'counseling.' But we need to help these people. They need family support, job training, and mental health services. They need actual assessment

and access to medication. They need real drug rehabilitation; you can't get off heroin in 21 days. They don't need 'counseling.'"

Jackson's other goals for the district include bringing in a supermarket and other needed businesses; putting senior services in place as the baby boomers start to age; and transforming renters into homeowners.

He wants to bring in money for programs and services by building coalitions between public and private sectors, businesses and nonprofits.

"We can no longer do this separately: businesses and charities need to come together to raise and spend money efficiently," he said.

Early endorsements and supporters of Jackson's, according to his Web site, include former Public Defender Jeff Brown; former Supervisor Barbara Kaufman; gay philanthropist and former Ambassador James Hormel; the Golden Gate Restaurant Association; Department of Public Health Director Mitch Katz; and longtime lesbian activists Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon.

His appeal to a broad range of city residents, he said, demonstrates his desire and ability to build bridges and get things done.

"I want this job," said Jackson. "I really do. I'm the guy that has the time, expertise, energy, and courage to do the right thing." ▼

For more info, visit www.votejacksonforsupervisor.com.

Bi conferences

◀ page 5

The 7th International Conference on Bisexuality — entitled "Bringing Bisexuals Together" — will take place in Sydney, Australia, October 25-28. It will be the first international bi conference held in the Southern Hemisphere.

The international conference is part of the program of events surrounding Gay Games VI Sports and Cultural Festival, also in Sydney. ▼

For more info on the Bisexual Men's Conference, visit www.bisexual.org/MAI. For details about the 7th International Conference on Bisexuality, go to www.bi.org.au/7ICB.

PositiveForce

Positive Force In Motion:

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Positive Force is excited to take you on a journey to a far off place — Hold on Dorothy, you don't need your Ruby Slips for this trip. We will be visiting the Palace of the Legion of Honor's exhibit of *Eternal Egypt*, a unique collection of Egyptian artistic antiquities directly from the British Museum. If you thought you took drag seriously, wait till you see the jewelry and cosmetics of Amenhotep III, Akhenaten, and Rameses the Great.

October

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Have you been to Positive Space lately? Come see for yourself how this original Positive Force event just keeps getting more stimulating, to more guys, month after month. Refreshments provided.

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October 15

October 29

What is the HIV+ Community? Come discuss with other HIV+ men what we think defines us as a community, if anything. Are we this monolithic group that can be advertised to and promoted as a single voice?

TUESDAY | 6:30 – 7:45pm | STOP AIDS Castro | 539 Castro Street

Please call 415/865.0790 x307 to RSVP.



Positive Force is a program of the STOP AIDS Project by and for all HIV+ gay and bi men.
STOP AIDS PROJECT



OBITUARIES

Gay prisoner

◀ page 1

His greatest health challenge was a throat cancer diagnosis in 1997. Doctors suggested radical surgery that would have removed his tongue, part of his jaw and his upper and lower pallets, leaving him severely disfigured. He was told even after the surgery, his chances of survival were only 50/50. He opted instead for two months of debilitating and painful radiation treatments. So far those treatments have kept his cancer in remission, although doctors initially thought the chances of saving Smith's life were only 15 percent.

During the recent interview in the prison's visiting room, Smith appeared feeble. His hand trembled as he sipped coffee, a symptom of Parkinson's. His AIDS-related dementia causes him to sometimes lose his train of thought in mid-sentence. He takes a fistful of medications every day and explains that it takes a half-day to just get going in the morning.

The Board of Prison Terms, which has only approved parole for about 1 percent of eligible candidates, ordered his parole two years ago but Governor Gray Davis blocked his release, calling Smith "a person with little regard for human life."

Along with an acquaintance, Kevin Leigh, Smith was convicted of the 1985 murder of 28-year-old Rick Diamonon in a dispute over cocaine. Diamonon was shot and drowned. His cause of death was ruled to be drowning. Although each man blamed the other for the murder, witnesses said that Leigh's clothes were wet just after the shooting and Smith's were dry. Each man was convicted of second-degree murder.

In March, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Keith Schwartz ruled that Davis illegally and unfairly blocked Smith's parole and ordered his release. In a stinging seven-page rebuke of the

governor, Schwartz wrote that Davis exaggerated Smith's criminal record and that the governor incorrectly asserted that Smith shot the victim.

The judge who presided over Smith's original trial strongly supports Smith's release and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office has not opposed parole. A former Los Angeles County assistant district attorney and a current Superior Court judge in Santa Cruz County, Mike Barton, is among those who have written letters in support of Smith's release. Barton said he was impressed that while Smith was in

saw red," said Smith explaining that he literally saw red. "I'm an artist, maybe it means something."

Smith said he broke down and cried.

"They gave me a chair," he said. "I was in a state of shock."

In his message blocking Smith's parole, Davis wrote: "Mr. Smith participated in committing a wanton and violent act against another human being for something as inconsequential as an unsatisfactory drug deal. His actions during the commission of this crime, in addition to his history of drug abuse and criminal activity,

"My back got hot and I went blind momentarily, and instead I saw red." — gay prisoner Mark Smith

custody in the Los Angeles County Jail, he came forward with information that helped convict a man of killing a baby. Barton said he was impressed because Smith, while putting himself in danger for coming forward, asked for nothing in return for turning over that critical information. Smith told the B.A.R. that he felt compelled to come forward because he believed that the life of another child that the man had access to was in danger.

Smith vividly recalls the day two years ago when Davis blocked his parole. It was on the last day of a 30-day deadline that Davis had to decide the case. Smith's mother was told to prepare for her son's arrival the following day.

But at about 7:30 p.m., on the eve of his release, he was called into a prison office and given a fax to read. It was from the governor. Smith said his eyes immediately focused on the word in bold. The word was "reversed," meaning that Davis was reversing the decision of the parole board.

"My back got hot and I went blind momentarily, and instead I

indicate a person with little regard for human life. Mr. Smith minimizes his role in the crime, claiming to have been a mere bystander, but the court found he was a contributing participant in the crime."

Schwartz wrote, to the contrary, the parole board found "the victim died of causes related to the acts of the prisoner, but was not directly assaulted by the prisoner. Therefore, the governor's assertion that the petitioner shot the victim is completely unsupported by the record in this case."

Davis wrote that the parole board, whose members he appoints, as well as Smith's trial judge, are wrong.

"The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is opposed to parole for Mr. Smith," the governor noted, "stating in several letters that their investigation revealed that Mr. Smith shot the victim and that 'based on the facts of this case,' it is the opinion of this department that parole of inmate Smith is inappropriate and should be denied."

Smith's attorney countered the

Scott Edwards



Scott Edwards passed away on September 30, 2002 after going into full cardiac arrest at his home 12 days earlier. Scott was a quiet man who was estranged from his family and kept his personal life very

private. He had relocated to San Francisco from New York City in 1983 and had worked for the past 13 years at the law firm of Thelen Reid & Priest as an office services coordinator.

He was known, as much as he was known, to friends and work associates as a gentle soul who took great pride in his work and would always go the extra mile to see that things were done right. That, along with a caustic wit, are aspects of Scott that will be remembered most readily.

A memorial service for Scott was held on October 12, 2002 at Unity Church in San Francisco.

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

AEF director

◀ page 4

for the task.

The 42-year-old Smith, who has an MBA from Stanford, grew the Denver center from one staff person to a budget of more than \$1 million. He expanded programs to include a community mental health clinic, lesbian cancer support services, legal services, and a separate GLBT youth drop-in center facility.

While in Denver, Smith also founded Denver's Lesbian and

Gay Film Festival and expanded Denver's Pride celebration to more than 150,000 participants. These successes should help him as he also oversees the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, which AEF founded last year.

As the first managing director of the Names Project Foundation, Smith oversaw the organization's transformation from a small grassroots outfit to an international symbol of the AIDS pandemic. While he managed the quilt's first two displays in Washington D.C., he also oversaw its 20-city national tours.

"The diagnosis has always been if something ain't broke don't fix it," Smith said of his first week on the job. "AEF has a great reputation, a great bunch of volunteers, and even some very good people who have been on staff here for awhile. I am looking at this as what are some new opportunities for fundraising. I want to be working with the city's AIDS office and grant-making foundations to raise the amount of money coming into the agency."

Tickets for AEF's gala are on sale now and can be purchased by calling (415) 551-5190. ▼

OutRight

◀ page 10

equal protection of the laws. Though the long-term legal significance of *Romer* remains to be seen, at the very least it halted similar state-wide initiatives across the country.

More telling is what happened in Colorado itself. Gays in every part of the state, stunned by what they saw as a personal rebuke from their fellow citizens, came out of the closet for the first time and got politically active.

Gay activism was most intense in Colorado Springs, the home of anti-gay organizing in the state. A new gay-rights group, Ground Zero, began within a month. At the group's first press conference several people walked in with bags over their heads, removed them,

and declared publicly for the first time they were gay.

An accountant placed a picture of her lover on her desk at work. A car salesman wore a gay pride ribbon on his lapel as he greeted customers. When his co-workers at a construction firm began telling anti-gay jokes, one previously closeted employee announced: "If you want to talk that trash you better say it to my face, because you are talking about me too."

The leader of the Amendment 2 effort ran for mayor of Colorado Springs and lost to a moderate, who immediately announced a policy of "zero tolerance" for discrimination against city employees. The city even passed its own ordinance banning discrimination against gays, an unthinkable event before the fight over Amendment 2.

A local high school ran an arti-

cle about the experience of gay students. When social conservatives demanded the school board ban such articles, the board refused.

"In the long-run, we didn't achieve our goal," Kevin Tebedo, one of the drafters of Amendment 2, recently told the *Denver Post*. "As a result of that, nationwide, it was a boon for the homosexual political lobby."

Colorado gay activists agree. As one told the *Post*, "We know now that we have allies and can defend ourselves. Amendment 2 created a gay community. It is the best thing that ever happened to us."

Another such defeat and we shall overcome. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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Ball room

by Jim Provenzano

Whether you ask a bowler or a softball player, accounts differ as to which sport first originated for the gay and lesbian community. If you ask someone who's done both, it's a minor league quibble. That some people had the temerity to do both over a quarter century ago is more important.

Combining aspects of athleticism and social fun, bowling and softball have a rich tradition here, with teams going back to the 1960s. Some of the largest Bay Area groups headed for Sydney in two weeks include 80 bowlers, three softball teams, and folks participating in other sports and culture events.

Doug Litwin first joined the gay league in 1985. He bowled at Gay Games II, III, and V, and in numerous tournaments around the world. He also coordinates the local gay racquetball league, which plays on Wednesday nights, and he's lobbying hard to have this sport return to the Gay Games in Montreal in 2006. While modest about his achievements, he owned up to one honor.

"I believe I was the first bowler in one of the gay leagues to ever bowl a 300 game," (January 1986 at the now-closed Japantown Bowl) he said. "Others have of course done it since then."

Other sports Litwin played growing up include baseball, tennis, racquetball, "and of course bowling." Litwin is also one of the leaders of "Team Band," the group of nearly 150 musicians and cheerleaders who are traveling to Australia for two weeks of performing in both Melbourne's Midsumma Festival and Sydney's Gay Games Opening and Closing ceremonies, and other concert events at Sydney's Opera House.

"Two host bands in these cities will be helping us," Litwin said. "The Melbourne Rainbow Band and the Sydney Homotones." Locally, Litwin plays in the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band.

Litwin's bowling partners include Jim Hahn of San Francisco, Nelson Luess of Oakland, and Duane Flohra of Alameda. Their catchy name is "Strictly Ball Room," just one of 20 cleverly-named teams whose equipment will hopefully pass airport security screenings.

Despite the goal of being bowled over by Aussie hospitality, Litwin admitted to having lost the gold medal to an Australian team by five pins at Gay Games V in Amsterdam. "We will be seeking revenge," he joked.

Bay Area bowlers have a history of fundraising, and softball players often bowl for donations.

The Golden Gate Invitational Bowling Tournament is held each February.

The history of the International Gay Bowling Organization, or IGBO, has grown from its original six member cities in 1980, to over 200 member leagues and tournaments worldwide. According to IGBO, it's the largest international gay and lesbian sports organization in existence today.

IGBO began in 1980 by league bowlers in North America. The seed was sown in August 1980, when representatives from six cities (Houston, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, New York City, San Diego, and Toronto) met in Los Angeles to participate in a bowling/softball tournament hosted by the Inter-City Athletic Union of Los Angeles, proving once again that bowling and softball share similar roots.

For local bowling activities with Golden Gate Trios in Daly City at Serra Bowl, call (650) 992-3444. For info on IGBO, visit www.igbo.org/

Home plate

Softball's roots emerged from the benevolence of gay bars as sponsors, but has spread to playing fields across the continent.

Created in 1977, the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance is a nonprofit, international organization comprised of men and women dedicated to promoting amateur athletics for the gay community. NAGAAA was formed to encourage the participation of gay men and women in organized softball competition.

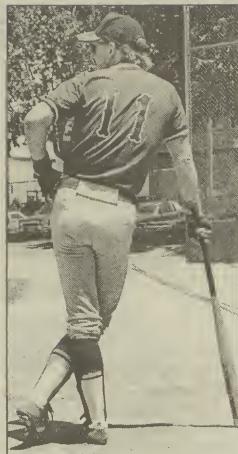
Currently, almost 50 gay softball leagues in about 30 cities in the United States and Canada are members of NAGAAA. Teams representing these leagues participate in NAGAAA's Gay Softball World Series, hosted each year by a different member city.

This year, San Francisco teams that placed at the GSWS in Portland include the first place Women's Alternative Pilser Panthers. Second place was won by the Open D Division SF Comets. Third place went to the Open C Division SF Renegades. The 2003 GSWS will be in Washington, D.C.

Players from the Cinch, the Titans, and the Aftershock make up the Bay Area teams headed for Sydney.

Marc Triplett of the S.F. Aftershock said that despite the latest terrorist attack being close to Australia, he and his 14 teammates are determined to travel down under.

Two other men's teams are comprised of players from the Cinch Roughriders and the Titans. A women's team is still recruiting a few players.



Batter of fact: One of SF's many gay softballers.

This will be Triplett's third time at Gay Games. He called New York in '94 and Amsterdam, "Both spectacular in their own ways."

Triplett is part of softball's history as well. He and Jesse Ramirez started the Long Beach Softball Club in 1981. "I also came out around that time," he said. "There were really no other gay sports going on at the time. Bowling didn't get started in Southern California until after softball."

Other local softball groups headed for Sydney include a rec league women's team, two pools of men's slo-pitch A-grade, (competitive), and slo-pitch B-grade (recreational), with 11 teams in that pool. Eight are American, with one Aussie, British, and Canadian team each.

Yet despite the affable social nature of the game, when asked if he plans on playing hard, Triplett said, "We wouldn't be traveling halfway around the world if we weren't going to be competitive."

You can meet Sydney-bound players and several local team members at the Metro bar, 16th and Market, this Saturday, October 19 from 3-8 p.m. All three softball teams going to Gay Games will be in attendance (and in uniform). Door prizes and "Going for the Gold" margarita drinks are just a few of the highlights.

Sunday, October 20, at Reflections (1160 Polk Street) from 3-8 p.m., the Aftershock returns the favor, inviting all who have supported them to come on out to their appreciation party.

For more info, visit www.sfaftershock.org, www.sfgsl.org, www.nagaaa.org, e-mail SanFrancisco@NAGAAA.org, or call (415) 436-0707.

Send your last-minute pre-Gay Games announcements, benefit event info to jimproven@yahoo.com. Read previous articles at www.sportscomplex.org.

If Sydney-bound, make sure your visa and passport are in accord. Don't forget to vote early or absentee. Ask for the waterproof ballot, just in case. ▼

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INTA-AUSSIE

Gay Games VI

◀ page 18

million budget shortfall, reported the *Observer*.

"The event is clearly at a difficult point. We started the marketing of the event at a time when we thought it was appropriate, at a time when we thought people were starting to pay attention. I think we are acting as responsibly as we could be asked to act, I think we are being extremely cautious and conservative. We know that we can cut budgets if we need to,

even at a late stage if we need to," Lange told the *Observer*.

Bay Area resident Sara Waddell Lewinstein, whose late husband Tom Waddell helped found the Gay Games, told the B.A.R. that she is confident the Sydney organizers will find a way to resolve their cash situation. She added that it is not unusual for Games officials to make last-minute pleas for people to buy tickets.

"We have thousands of people coming to Australia who will buy tickets when they get there," said Lewinstein, honorary life director of the federation. "The last month

is always the hardest at any Gay Games. The finances always come into place when all the tickets are sold."

Organizers in Sydney are expected to address the monetary and safety concerns as well as other questions surrounding the Games today (Thursday, October 17).

"We are currently preparing a statement on the matters you have raised and should have that ready to distribute tomorrow afternoon our time," Matt Jones, the Games' media manager, told the B.A.R. in an e-mail sent on Wednesday, October 16. ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



VACANCY NOTICES - Boards, Commissions, Task Force

Interested Persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: <http://www.sfgov.org/bdsups>

San Francisco Museum and Historical Society Advisory Committee: The Committee shall publicly discuss and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and Fine Arts Museums Board on various topics. The Committee shall submit to the Board of Supervisors and Fine Arts Museums Board a written report by March 31, 2003. The operations of the Committee shall expire on June 1, 2005, unless otherwise amended by the Board of Supervisors. The Committee shall consist of nine voting members.

JUVENILE PROBATION COMMISSION

The Juvenile Probation Commission will be holding a meeting on Wed., October, 23, at 5:30pm, at the OMI Beacon Center, on the campus of James Denman Middle School at 241 Oneida Ave.

All interested residents are encouraged to come and let the Commission know their concerns on juvenile justice issues in the City. Questions? please call 733 7870.

BUSINESS REGISTRATION RENEWAL:

Anyone conducting business in San Francisco must be registered with the Treasurer & Tax Collector and pay an annual registration fee. The Business Registration Renewal forms were recently mailed to all registered businesses. The business registration renewal period is converting from a calendar year to a fiscal year in order to consolidate the two annual tax filing deadlines into one. To eliminate one deadline, there will be a one-time 6-month registration renewal period and all businesses will re-register in February 2003 for the new annual time period. Business taxpayers are reminded to submit their signed Registration Renewal Statement and fee payment to the Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 31, 2002, in order to avoid late filing penalties. Businesses can save time by renewing online at www.citizens.sfgov.org. Business can also renew by mail; timely filings are determined by the U.S. Postal Service postmark. The Treasurer & Tax Collector encourages all businesses to use the online registration options if it is quick, easy, efficient, and secure. For further information, call Taxpayer Assistance at (415) 554-4400 or send an e-mail to Treasurer.TaxCollector@sfgov.org.

CHINESE AND SPANISH VOTER INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ARE AVAILABLE

On October 15, the Post Office began mailing Chinese and Spanish Voter Information Pamphlets (VIP) to all voters on the Department of Elections permanent mailing list for election materials in these languages. Voters who have not previously requested a VIP in Chinese or Spanish, may request that a VIP be mailed to them. If you would like a copy of the paid arguments in Chinese or Spanish, you must request these by phone or letter. For Chinese speaking voters, contact the Department of Elections at (415) 554-4367 (Chinese line) for more information. For Spanish speaking voters, contact the Department of Elections at (415) 554-4366 (Spanish line). Voters may also write to us for information at: 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 48, San Francisco, CA 94102. Office hours are from 8AM to 5PM, Monday-Friday. The VIP in English, Chinese and Spanish, is also available online at: <http://www.sfgov.org/election>

STATEMENT FILE 0261009-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Time, 808 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Aaron Lozada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 19, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/19/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260941-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: DKKP, 808 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul R. Lozada. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 17, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260999-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bangkok BBQ, 1375 9th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Dannon Pongtorn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/19/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 259728

The following person(s) are doing business as: Third Eye Media, 3410 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Pedar Tuyub, Sandy Staggs, and Charles Aymar Hack. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 07/31/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261028-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Salbridge Music, 99 Lois Lane San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Gladstein. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/20/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261043-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: 'the Outbacks', 2123 Castro Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Alpert. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/20/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260420-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: National Product, 1845 Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Douglas A. Domonkos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 08/26/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261037-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: It's All About Me Photographic Services, 84 Jennings Court, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed David G. Ingram. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 17, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/17/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260999-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: In The Superior Court of the State of California in and for the County of San Francisco file no. cnc 02-540421

In the Matter of the Application of Leila Mozelie Marie Brown. For change of Name. The application of Leila Mozelie Marie Brown for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leila Mozelie Marie Brown has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Leila Mozelie Marie Djermouli. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of October at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0260891-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Continental Mail Co, 537 Jones Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed David Edward White. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 11, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/13/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261220-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Chutney, 511 Jones Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Mohammad A. Bajwa and Arif Zahir. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 1, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/27/2002.

SEPT. 26, OCT. 3, 10, 17, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261212-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Van Ness Auto Body, 74 12th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Tony Feng and Stanley Zhu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on September 25, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/27/2002.

SEPT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME, FILE NO. 236603

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Baldoria Restaurant, Located at: 2162 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by a corporation signed Fabrizio Laudain, president. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on November 30, 1999.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C-02-540459

In the Matter of the Application of Hnin Soe Moe. For change of Name. The application of Hnin Soe Moe for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Hnin Soe Moe has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Mabel Soe Moe. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of November at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261246-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Poseidon Construction, 1495 Golden Gate Avenue Apt. #303, San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Ante Vlajcovic. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 09/30/2002.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261345-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: In And Out Plumbing, 3830 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Atef Abbas. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/03/2002.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261318-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Baldoria Trattoria, 2162 Larkin Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Paolo Galli, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 01, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/01/2002.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261318-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Leila Place 2, 312 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Nopakun Outayakul. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/2002.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261322-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Amazing, 5151 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by co-partners signed Chaoming Guan and Meiling Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/02/2002.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 02-540472

In the Matter of the Application of Dawn Marie Weinschrott. For change of Name. The application of Dawn Marie Weinschrott for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dawn Marie Weinschrott has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Dawn Marie Weinschrott Revilla. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 05 day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. C.N.C 02-540475

In the Matter of the Application of Tamara Rose Marie Berry for change of Name. The application of Tamara Rose Marie Berry for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Tamara Rose Marie Berry has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Tamara Rose Marie Brouillard. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 09 day of December at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Outayakul Nopakun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 312 Divisadero Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94117. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE OCTOBER 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

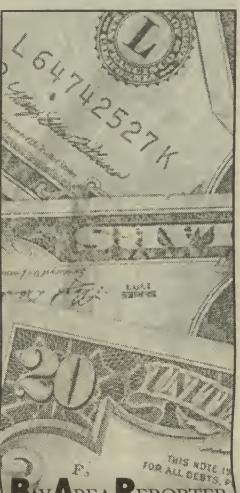
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Mei Ya Yun and Yu Hai Xun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 475 Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE OCTOBER 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE 0261560-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: All About Children, 1412 Noriega Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an husband and wife signed Edward Romanov and Janet Romanov. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on October 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/11/2002.

SEPT. 10, 17, 24, NOV 7, 2002



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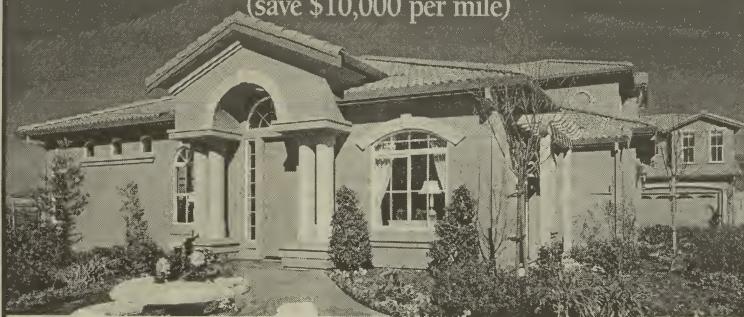
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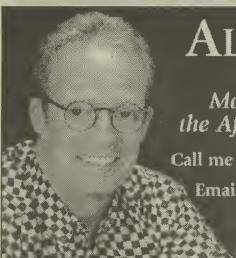
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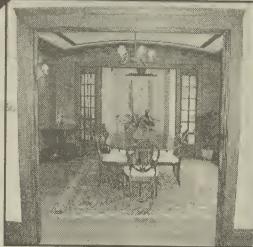
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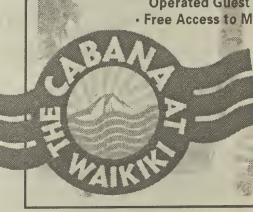
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Proposition 46 Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Bonds Act

YES

Proposition 47 Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bonds

YES

Proposition 48 Court Consolidation

YES

Proposition 49 After School State Funds

YES

Proposition 50 Water Quality, Supply and Safe Drinking Water, and Coastal Wetlands, Purchase & Protection Bonds

YES

Proposition 51 Transportation allocation of Sales and Use Taxes

YES

SAN FRANCISCO PROPOSITIONS

Prop A - We lose local control of water supply and our water rates could triple

NO

Prop B - Affordable Housing Bonds

YES

Prop C - Bonds for War Memorial

NO

Prop D - People are homeless, streets are dirty, General Hospital must be rebuilt and they want to buy PG&E

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Prop E - Stepchild of A & D:

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Prop F - Entertainment Commission Appointments

YES

Prop G - Assistance to Elections Department
YES

Prop H - Retirement Benefits for
Public Safety Workers

YES YES YES

Prop I - Paid Parental Leave
YES

Prop J - Civil Service for Supervisors Salary
YES

Prop K - Removes Affirmative Action
from Public Notice contracts

NO NO NO

Prop L - 100% increase Property
Transfer Tax

NO

Prop M - Economic Development Plan
YES

Prop N - The system is broken, let's fix it
YES

Prop O - This could have been done at
the Board of Supervisors

NO

Prop P - Public Utilities Commission
Oversight Committee

YES

Prop Q - Prohibition of the Use of City
Funds for Political Purposes

YES

Prop R - Home Ownership Program

YES

Prop S - City Provision of Medical Marijuana

YES

BB Bart Improvement Bonds

YES YES YES

Michael Moore says, Guns 'R' Us!
Documentarian's 'Bowling for Columbine'
examines America's appetite for firearms.
page 35

Welcome to 'Heaven'
Working from a Krzysztof
Kieslowski screenplay.
page 37



Welcome to 'Hell'
Religious Right funhouse
explored in 'Hell House.'
page 37



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 32 • No. 42 • 17 October 2002

Fabulous and funereal: A day in LA

Life, death, and Hollywood Forever by Glen Helfand



Art Institute of Chicago II,
Chicago, 1990, by Thomas
Struth at the Museum of
Contemporary Art in Los Angeles

Flew down last night on a cheap but irritating flight — the annoying Southwest stewardess sang a Whitney Houston song on the PA system. Got a rental car and soon met a friend at a Los Feliz bar. So now I'm hung over, but thanks to fab *café con leche* from the Cuban bakery on Sunset, I've got the energy to get to MOCA for the crack-o'-dawn (well, 10

a.m.) press preview of the Thomas Struth exhibition. The German photographer's big pictures of cities and museum interiors are breathtakingly cool, an unnerving eye on shifting urbanity and public places. His *Paradise* series, really big, glossy photos of lush forests, is an unexpected sensual addition, a typology of Edens.

Mr. Struth himself, who was being videotaped by

an international wire service, was also a good-looking surprise: tall and lithe, a cultivated five o'clock shadow, earnestly handsome. A friend winking points out that he's also wearing "man sandals." I dunno, it could just be a Euro thing...

I bump into writer friends, and we decide to check

page 34 ►

Complicated painting Richter retrospective at SFMOMA

by Sura Wood

The German painter Gerhard Richter has confounded his critics and frustrated art historians. Neither a doctrinaire postmodernist nor a pure conceptualist, this prolific, iconoclastic artist has eluded those who would define him. Some scholars and journalists, unable to pin him down, have accused him of impudence. Refusing to accede to the demands of the marketplace and impervious to the zeitgeist, Richter paints to please himself. Such a formula has proven successful for only a few, exceptionally gifted artists.

"Since the mid-'60s, he has been celebrated and attacked, pretty much equally, for the extreme physical precision, maddening opacity and daunting intellectual quality of his work, which switch-hits, sometimes almost as if arbitrarily, between realism and abstraction,"

wrote *New York Times* art critic Michael Kimmelman, one of the few journalists allowed into Richter's inner sanctum. "The art is not grasped easily... but it is genuinely felt, emotionally complicated and skeptical. You might say Mr. Richter is a pessimist who is optimistic enough to paint anyway."

That skepticism as well as restraint that can register as cool detachment is reflected in *Gerhard Richter: Forty Years of Painting*, a major retrospective that opened this week at SFMOMA. The exhibition, which originated at the New York Museum of Modern Art and includes more than 140 paintings, attempts to put the artist into an historical context.

Richter, 70, came of age in turbulent times. Born in the early 1930s in Germany, he grew up under the Nazis (his parents enrolled him in a Hitler Youth

Reading, 1994, oil on linen
by Gerhard Richter



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by Roberto Friedman
and Condoleezza Ripe

Wasn't it fun having our windows and teeth rattled whenever the **Blue Angels** flew over in formation last weekend? Out There has never really understood Fleet Week, a weird public event made even stranger by the fact that the **US Navy** no longer has bases located anywhere in the Bay Area.

We kept feeling we should be waving big signs at the bomber pilots: "Iraq Thataway —>" or, as the bus-shelter ads say, "We are not the enemy." But if the Navy insists on throwing San Francisco a party, the least they could do is reinstate the much-loved "House a Sailor" program. We know legions of gay men in the metropolitan area who would sign right up to serve the service in just this way.

Steam heat

With so many shows in town which deal with pulsating sexuality (*The Full Monty Likes It Hot with Penis Puppets*), we're also graced with last Spring's hit from showguy **F. Allen Sawyer**, *Lavender Lockerroom* (still missing that second r). The offering at Theatre Rhino, performed on a bare stage with actors wearing black from head to toe, has more simulated humping, writhing, genital grabbing and group sexual situations than anything now playing.

Returning cast members **David Bicha**, **Arturo Galster**, **Isaac Brantner** and **Sandra Schlechter** are joined by **Tara Blau** and **hunk du jour Michael Soldier**, who wears (or takes off) many hats these days. All of him can be seen in *Raging Stallion Studios* classics *Sexpack Five* and *Raiders of the Lost Arse*, not to mention that heart-plucker *Terms of Endowment*.

Soldier was seen this street-fair season in the hot genderfuck band **Pepper Spray**, and is also known as **Ms. Precious Moments**, the reigning Miss Trannyshack. *Lockerroom* heats up the stage through Oct.



Out of balance: A scene from Godfrey Reggio's *Koyaaniqatsi*



Soldier in *Terms of Endowment*

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Thrills and chills

Hearing composer **Philip Glass** and his Ensemble play his score to a live screening of **Godfrey Reggio's** cult art-film *Koyaaniqatsi* last Sunday night at Davies Hall, as part of San Francisco Performances' *Philip on Film*, was exactly the right soundtrack for the tense present. "Life out of balance," indeed! Reggio's new film, *Naqoyqatsi*, also with a score by Glass, opens next Friday, Oct. 25, at the Lumière Theatre. This time, they've moved on to the tag-line, "Life as war."

Chips and flips

The gossipist for the New York Post breathlessly reported last

week that, deep in the wilds of Manhattan, **Chelsea Clinton** has been spotted going to a gym. The Post went on to conjecture that the new fitness regimen was "maybe to prep for her acting debut in TV's *Absolutely Fabulous* Christmas special!" Think there was a flack at play in that transition?

Reports are that Chelsea's role is to loiter around a shop trying to impress Patsy (**Joanna Lumley**) and Eddy (**Jennifer Saunders**). Seems she desperately wants to be in Patsy's mag, and we don't mean *Hello!* The Post makes much of the fact that Chelsea lives in the Chelsea/Clinton district of Manhattan (we used to know it as Hell's Kitchen), but of course they must know that she was named after a song by **Joni Mitchell** — who has a new release coming in November, a double-CD featuring both jazz and strings. No flack needed in that segue.

Elsewhere, there was much excitement in *Slate*'s TV-ad review column about what it called crooner **Enrique Iglesias'** "vaguely gay Doritos ad." Yep, the singer is shilling for Salsa Chips, in a commercial suffused with homoeroticism.

Iglesias, whom *Slate* rather startlingly dubs "arguably the hottest male sex symbol around these days," (around where, Seattle?) "wants to find someone with that certain something that 'makes me fall in love.' Then it becomes clear that it's not the young ladies in the front row that he's focused on — it's a particular young man. As it starts to dawn on this guy that Iglesias is giving him very special attention, he glances nervously from side to side. At this point, Iglesias reaches out to the guy and snatches away his bag of Doritos Salsa Chips. That's what he's up to: satisfying his lust for salty snacks."

page 33 ►

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- Leah Rozen, PEOPLE

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Pageant queen

'Master of (Miss) Universe' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

Noel Alumit has a dirty little secret. He is fascinated by beauty pageants. He can rattle off the "final question" gaffes that have cost front-runners the crown. He also fantasizes about how he would answer the all-important final question.

"Which historical figure would you most like to meet, and why?"

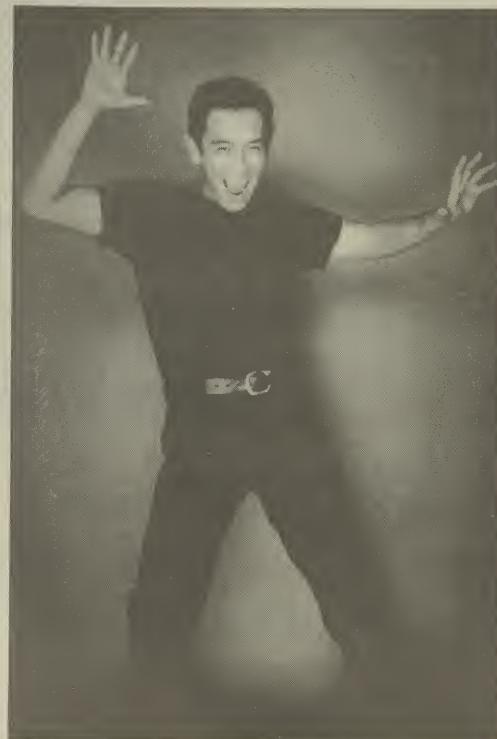
"Eva Peron, so I could ask what she thought of the musical *Evita*."

It may not come as much of a surprise that Alumit is gay. He is also a native of the Philippines, a place where pageants are revered, and where Filipino winners of the Miss Universe contest get their own stamps.

Of course, it's easy to laugh at beauty pageants, and that is clearly the expected reaction as video scenes from the exalted Binining Pilipinas Beauty Pageant are projected while the audience settles in for Alumit's *Master of the (Miss) Universe*.

But in his 60-minute solo show at New Conservatory Theatre Center, Alumit also lashes out at the position of privilege that allows an easy dismissal of these contests. For Alumit, transplanted into a new culture at an early age, seeing a contestant on television that he could call his own was magical. "She looked like hope," he recalled thinking of one Filipino contestant in a Miss Universe contest.

The LA-based Alumit, previously seen at NCTC in *The Rice Room*, is a highly engaging performer with a wry wit. He recounts memorable pageant moments with the passion of a sports announcer remembering the big game. And his use of video from actual contests is masterful. When he tells us how popular skin-



Noel Alumit recounts pageants with the passion of a sports announcer.

whitening cream is in the Philippines, it sounds like a stock complaint, until we see a scene from an actual pageant in which the winner receives a year's supply of Ponds skin-whitening cream.

Sometimes, though, Alumit goes off-course, trying to pull tangential material into the beauty-pageant conceit, and further fragmenting what is already a choppy

approach. Mostly, though, this is an entertaining hour spent with an amiable host who happens to have a peculiar passion. ▼

Master of the (Miss) Universe will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Oct. 27. Tickets are \$15-\$20. Call 861-8972.

Tony's 15 minutes

'Some Like It Hot' fizzles

by Richard Dodds

There are two shows being performed under one name at the Golden Gate Theatre. That name is *Some Like It Hot*, and one of its identities is a respectable mounting of the musical version of the classic movie. The other is an excuse to give interested audiences a chance to see 77-year-old Tony Curtis in the flesh.

By the clock, you don't get to see a lot of him. Curtis, who starred with Jack Lemmon in the original movie, is onstage for only about 15 minutes in the role of a skirt-chasing millionaire. But it turns out to be quite enough.

Back to the other show, which was known as *Sugar* when it opened on Broadway in 1972. For this revised revival, Peter Stone has tinkered with his book, while the mostly ho-hum Jule Styne-Bob Merrill score remains intact. There are some genuine pleasures to be had in director-choreographer Dan Sirett's production, but the decision to make it a star vehicle for Curtis saps resources from where they are most needed.

When Curtis and Lemmon first appeared in their drag dis-

guise in the movie, it was funny because audiences were already well aware of these actors' screen personas. With unknowns in the part, it wouldn't have had nearly the effect, but that's what we get in the current musical production.

Jerry and Joe, a couple of musicians on the run from a Chicago mobster, are the starring roles. For the show to work, you need stars — or at least comic performers with a distinctive countenance and manner. But Timothy Gulan and Arthur Hanket, able journeymen actors, don't have the flair to fully drive the central plot.

Jodi Carmel fares better as the band-singer Sugar, suggesting the Marilyn Monroe original while allowing her own personality to come through. But the real hit of the evening is William Ryall, who turns the head mobster into an ominous string bean whose mad tapping provides the machine-gun sound effects.

And then there's triple-threat



Tony Curtis seldom hits a note.

Curtis: can't sing, can't dance, can't act. Yet there is something quizzically intriguing about watching him try. He shuffles his feet furiously to suggest tap-dancing. He croaks out a couple of songs in a voice that seldom hits a note. And

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Moor is less

San Francisco Opera's 'Otello' collapses

by Stephanie von Buchau

I'm not sure how wise it is to draw a conclusion after one failed opera presentation, but with the San Francisco Opera's *Otello*, premiered last Wednesday in a production borrowed from Washington Opera, the temptations are so great that I will rush in where others fear to tread.

For instance, several reviews mentioned sadly that Ben Heppner was originally scheduled to sing *Otello*. What nobody seems to have noticed is that Heppner was Lotfi Mansouri's choice, and that new director Pamela Rosenberg was not enthusiastic. When I asked her about Heppner a year ago, she refused to answer, but made a face. I could hardly disagree, since the only time I heard him sing *Otello*, on a broadcast, he cracked several times. Well, shortly thereafter, Heppner canceled and, as near as we can tell, has eliminated the role from his repertory.

So one to Rosenberg, who was aware of Ben's vocal trouble before anybody else, it seems. But then we discover that Heppner's replacement, the thoroughly inadequate Jon Fredric West (referred to by rudesies in the balcony as "The Little King") has sung Siegfried for Rosenberg in Stuttgart. In the immortal words of William Shakespeare, whose glorious play was traduced



Larry Merkle

Baritone Sergei Leiferkus (Iago) and tenor Jon Fredric West (Otello).

Wednesday night, "Arrrggg!"

Second blame goes to conductor Donald Runnicles, who has got to do something about his opening-night rushes of adrenaline. I suspect that by the time the second-cast *Otello* appeared this Wednesday, Runnicles had toned it down. Fortunately, Verdi starts *Otello* with a storm. Here, Runnicles was in his element, roaring and furious, waves splattering, wind whipping. That the mechanically directed scene onstage was from the *Victor Book of Opera* didn't matter since the conductor was painting such a dynamic picture, and Ian Robertson's chorus was yowling their heads off. This was thrilling stuff.

Unfortunately, the storm lasts only a few minutes. Then "The Little King" arrives, stands on a box and shouts, "Esultate!" slightly under the pitch. When he hits a high note dead-on, the sound is huge and audience-pleasing. (Oh, to have heard him sing Calaf opposite Jane Eaglen. The mind boggles.) But he does not hit the note dead-on often enough, especially if it's loud or high. Most of the time he is slightly out of tune and breath, lunging for notes or struggling to phrase, being ridiculously melodramatic as in "Dio! mi potevi" or "Nun mi tema."

Racing form

Desdemona was sung by Patricia Racette, a fine artist who proves that the racing axiom, "Horses for courses," applies to opera as well. As solid a musician as Racette is, her cool, aristocratic tone is not suited to Verdi. Her Desdemona is a lovely, put-upon victim who occasionally tries to assert herself, but the indignant innocence of "parola orrenda" (when *Otello* calls her a whore; one of my favorite moments in this wonderful score) is simply beyond this singer. Her "Willow Song" and particularly the "Ave Maria" were beautifully vocalized, but her voice does not have that noble Italianate throb I associate with superior Desdemona such as Tebaldi or Lorengar.

At least Racette sings decent Italian. Sergei Leiferkus, the Russian baritone on whom I must admit I have a major crush, pronounces some language that is from outer space. His harsh, forward technique, so exciting in Lieder (he sang the scariest "Erlkönig" I've ever heard live) and in Slavic music, is all wrong for Italian or French opera. Blame casting directors. If the Met and SFO

wouldn't miscast Leiferkus, he'd have an incredible reputation as a perfect artist. Still, funny sound and all, at least you can't take your eyes off him; his Iago was a nasty piece of work. After listening to the brutal exchange with his wife Emilia (blowzy Catherine Cook), I wouldn't have wanted to be married to the guy.

We don't know how much of this *Otello* can be blamed on Rosenberg, but she should get some static for the program notes. We're told in a fashionable psychological deconstruction, for instance, that *Otello* and Desdemona's duet really isn't about love. It's a misunderstanding of motives.

Well, duh. I thought even desiccated deconstructionists knew that all romantic relationships are about misunderstanding of motives. This is no great insight, and it definitely short-changes Verdi, that chaste of composers, whose intense, discreetly sensual love duets are about love. Desdemona and *Otello* may misunderstand their psychological connection, but not its physical component. When your conductor is impatient with overt sensuality, your soprano is Katherine Hepburn cool, and your tenor is basically a loud-voiced flibbertigibbet, of course the love duet isn't going to sound sexy.

It didn't, and I felt distinctly ripped off, just as I had in the last Runnicles-conducted *Un ballo in maschera*, in which that nearly Wagnerian love duet sounded as proper as the Vicar's tea party. *Otello's* "Vénere splende" may be one of the harder lines in opera to sing, but when it is sung well, it is much more important than "Esultate," which the program informs us is paramount to understanding *Otello* vocally.

As of our deadline this weekend, *Otello* had collapsed into an opera director's nightmare. How will Rosenberg escape the dilemma of West withdrawing (at least temporarily) because of "illness" (yeah, the reviews made him sick) and being replaced Saturday night by Richard Decker; then Timothy Mussard (another Rosenberg Siegfried), scheduled to sing the Moor on Wednesday, also withdrawing? The rumored replacements run from the unsuitable (Fernando de la Mora) to the unavailable (Jose Cura); and wouldn't you kill to hear that? Stay tuned. ▼

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Life after Kronos

Cellist Joan Jeanrenaud goes solo on new CD

by Michael McDonagh

Our reporter thought long and hard. Should he meet cellist Joan Jeanrenaud at a noisy bistro, with harried waiters, and patrons on the Net, and on their cell phones? Or should he invite her to his place, and turn the phone off so they could talk uninterrupted? We opted for the latter. It helps that your reporter has known Jeanrenaud since 1984, and has written about her work with the internationally acclaimed Kronos Quartet many times. So we're not talking invasion of privacy here.

Jeanrenaud arrived promptly, and looked perfectly elegant in a light, white sleeveless top and slacks. Our first question was obvious. What has life been like since her departure from the Kronos Quartet in 1999?

"Great, in a word," she laughs. "I've been discovering things about music that I never really realized I would discover. I never thought, for example, that I would compose music, and I'm really enjoying it, and it seems not that difficult. That's part of the reason why I like my life now, I'm learning all the time."

"Improvising, for example, is something I always wanted to do, but that doesn't surprise me because I studied improvisation with [jazz] composer David Baker at Indiana University, and I also took some lessons here in San Francisco from [the late composer/saxophonist] Joe Henderson. When I left Kronos, I was studying with Hal Stein, a Bay Area sax player. So improvisation was something I always wanted to do with Kronos, but I never had the time. Kronos is great, but being away from the quartet, I had the freedom to explore these things."

Jeanrenaud's new solo CD, *Metamorphosis* (New Albion), shows the directions she's taken since leaving Kronos. Though she's a musician elaborately trained in the classical tradition (the revered French cellist Pierre Fournier was one of her teachers), she's played all the modernist classics which extended that tradition with the quartet, and she's clearly pushed the envelope even further here. The six pieces on *Metamorphosis* are also all part of Jeanrenaud's evening-length work of the same name, which she views as a kind of performance piece, one that clearly draws on some of the highly theatrical presentations she's developed with Kronos.

Heavy into looping

She also notes other inspirations. "Larry Ochs of the Rova Saxophone Quartet invited me to do something on the series *Music on the Mountain* (Tamalpais), so I



"I even listen differently now, and I know it's from improvising."

did a structured improv, and because of that, the whole improvisation interest led to composing, and every composer has told me that's what happens. Since then, I've explored electronic and got into looping."

Her "Altar Piece" (2000-01), featured on her album, exploits all of these musical resources. Composed after she saw a SomArts show of altars people made for loved ones they'd lost, it begins with high harmonics which suggest the Irish folk music that Kronos founder David Harrington's son, Adam, was into before his untimely death on Mt. Diablo. Jeanrenaud's electronic processing makes her piece seem epic, larger than life, and she plays a lyric keening solo over its industrial-strength sound. As the cellist remarks, "I even listen differently now, and I know it's from improvising. There's this whole new awareness of sound."

All of the other pieces here show her fascination with layering sounds, and her wide range of musical experiences shines through. A work like *Escaly* (Water Wheel) (1967/2000) by the Nubian composer and Bay Area resident Hamza El Din, for example, is in some ways like a jazz chart which needs to be re-imagined by the performer each time it's played, even though she says, "It's also very structured. You have a certain rhythmic pattern you have to do, and Hamza has a mil-

lion versions of it." And the connections between the pieces? "I'm interested in using the cello, but in creating a lot of different sounds with the cello, and because there's so much looping and layering, it's sort of cello plus."

Her CD is also the record of her very personal journey. "I knew I wanted to learn more after Kronos, and I had some need to explore, so I knew that, but I wasn't sure how it was gonna manifest itself in my work."

You might even say that the cellist's personal situation was a bit like that of the commercial traveler Gregor Samsa in Kafka's story "The Metamorphosis"—it's the title of Philip Glass' contribution here—who one day wakes up to find himself transformed into a gigantic insect. His perception of who he is and the world around him undergoes changes, and he gets enlightened in the process, too: "He thought of his family with tenderness and love." This may not be the pretty transformation of a chrysalis into a butterfly, but it's a workday transformation, and a deeply musical one, for Jeanrenaud, who always puts herself into new, and sometimes very dangerous territory. ▼

Perspectives, new works for cellist Joan Jeanrenaud, Nov. 8-9 at 8 p.m., SomArts Theater, 934 Brannan. Tickets (\$18): (415) 392-4400.

Out There

◀ page 30

Big surprise there! Everyone can recognize the pull of a good salt-lick in a nice lap. A strong enticement, even for a suave, media-created pop star.

Thriller pals

Thanks to *Rolling Stone* for ferreting out yet another tie which pop star Michael Jackson has with second-rung porn producers. OT readers may recall the thrill they got when news broke

this summer that Marc Shaffel, producer of Jacko's 9/11 charity single, "What More Can I Give?", was revealed as the very same Marc Shaffel who directed the blue movie *Cocktales*.

Now it appears Jackson was involved in a 1993 project that never came to fruition called *Sisterella*, with one Vaughn Kelly, better known under the name John Summers, responsible for films like *Huge Torpedoes* and *My Dick Is Bigger*. Well, if the King of Pop's career continues to nosedive, at least he has connections in a thriving industry. ▼



Jacko: what more can he give?



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A day in LA

◀ Arts cover

out the new downtown LA cathedral, of Our Lady of the Angels. It's a few long blocks from the museum, and we actually walk, right past Frank Gehry's wavy Disney Concert Hall, which is currently being clad in shiny metal. Spanish architect Rafael Moneo's Cathedral, on the other hand, is a warmly-tinted concrete, right-angleless building that has a sun-baked Southwestern feel. There's a vast, flat courtyard, with a cafe and gift shop on one side, and the crowd of worshippers and architecture fans who mill about seem like a Southern California version of a Strat picture.

Inside, the building has an unusual flow. You enter from behind, and work your way around the natural beige interior, which has an austere grandness as you witness the space opening to a cavernous, cathedral scale. The place is minimal in aesthetic, and even the giant tapestries of religious scenes have an understated quality — their pale brown tones make them seem as if they're made from unbleached paper. The stained-glass window idea has been wonderfully reinterpreted with seemingly golden-veined alabaster. It functions as a gentle but impressive filter of light. There's a lower floor that houses a brand-new crypt, which has the feel of a Beverly Hills mall, marble floors and archways to multiple-niche areas the scale of tony jewelry stores. Creepy.

Up on the roof

We're hungry. Instead of hitting the Cathedral cafe for lunch, we go for another new downtown desti-



More than just death-rockers are hip to the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, saved by a gay entrepreneur.

nation, The Standard. This multi-story, budget-glam hotel remodel of a midcentury building makes us all feel comfortably fabulous. The spacious lobby has well-placed, big modular couches and cool art on the walls. On the way to checking out their infamous rooftop pool bar, we wait for the elevator across from a screening of art videos. In the program, mounted on the wall, I notice bicoastal SF artist Aaron Plant, who's in *Bay Area Now 3*, is included in the mix. Although the elevator takes forever to arrive, we're not there long enough to see his tape.

The roof scene, even during the day, drips with '60s-inflected hipness. The view has a rock-video urbanity. Positioned around the pool are modular waterbed cabanas, white plastic cage-like structures that resemble mini-versions of that space-age bar at LAX. Sexy! There's an outdoor bar, too, and though it's only Noon, a good number of people are starting their drinking day.

The restaurant, on the ground floor, knowingly employs the sunny designer-yellow tones of a '70s quiche shack. We eat on the patio, wearing sunglasses. It feels wonderful out there, but my chicken sandwich is rather bland. My friends tell me about their art trip to Documenta. Another Euro thing. They were disappointed.

We parted ways, and I headed down Santa Monica Boulevard to the Hollywood Forever Cemetery, a place that's garnering a surprisingly hip reputation beyond the death-rock contingent. I have an appointment with the publicist, whose alterna-life involves being the former SF lounge singer Joey Cheeze. He tours me around the surprisingly idyllic grounds in a golf cart, telling me that it's "the happiest cemetery on earth." I believe him. The place has a bustling energy, with dashingly handsome funeral directors and video editors — the marketing trope here is digital "Life Stories" that capture the essence of loved ones,

saved for eternity on the Web — busy at their various activities. The grounds, which boast Valentino's remains and abut the Paramount Studios, were in bankruptcy and disrepair until young, gay entrepreneur Tyler Cassity turned things around with Six Feet Under flair. Joey shows me a chapel and the ashes of punk-rock legend Tomata Du Plenty, an urn complemented by rock show handbills and snapshots. We drive

by a virgin burial lawn where they're setting up a projector for the evening's screening of that French horror classic, *Eyes Without a Face*, which will be shown on the white walls of a mausoleum to an audience of hundreds of picnicking hipsters.

I can't believe I'm actually charmed by the place, until I inquire about cremation — do they do it there? They've yet to get their license approved, but they do have a brand-new oven. We have a look at the giant shiny appliance, which destroys the Disney-ish illusion. I need a breath of fresh air, and after thanking my Hollywood Forever host, I sit by the graveyard lagoon and call friends on my cell phone. "Where are we going for dinner?" ▼

Thomas Struth, through Jan. 5, 2003 at the Museum of Contemporary Art, (213) 621-2766; Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Temple St. between Grand and Hill, www.olacathedral.org; The Standard, 550 South Flower, (213) 892-8080; Hollywood Forever, 6000 Santa Monica Blvd., (323) 469-1181.



"Woman with Umbrella," 1964, by Gerhard Richter, now at SFMOMA

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Gerhard Richter

◀ Arts cover

program for young children) and later lived in Communist East Germany before crossing over to the West. It is not surprising, then, that he developed a healthy disdain for ideologies of any kind, a distrust of the media, a suspicion of received truth, and a distilled sense of the absurd.

Although abstraction comprises almost 80% of Richter's work, the paintings that are most intriguing — and for which he is best known — are those that are based on photography. And it is in these works that one can discern

Richter's commentary on the act of making art, and his conversation with the world that shaped him.

Image capture

The technique he employs involves projecting a photo on a canvas, tracing it and then painting over it, often blurring and refocusing the image; changing its emphasis to suit his own purposes, as in a famous shot of Jackie O ("Woman with Umbrella"), and altering its surface reality. A photograph, after all, is subjective, once-removed from the actual event or person it captures. Richter seldom evinces interest in

next page ▶

Weapons inspection

Michael Moore on Columbine and the NRA

by David Lamble

Two sounds linger following my all-too-brief visit with filmmaker Michael Moore: the roar of the Blue Angels fighter jets crossing Nob Hill, above the threshold of pain but below Mach 1, and the sound of my host banging out the opening chords of Bill Withers' '72 R&B hit "Lean On Me," on a piano thoughtfully provided in his penthouse suite at the Ritz-Carlton.

Fleet Week in San Francisco seems an oddly apt time to talk with the creator of *Bowling For Columbine*, a soup-to-nuts documentary on America's love affair with firearms that begins with Moore quizzing employees of a Midwestern bank that offers a free shotgun for new accounts, and ends with Moore berating Charlton Heston for his visit to Littleton, Colorado, as president of the National Rifle Association (NRA), on the heels of the shooting rampage by Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold that left 15 persons dead at Columbine High School.

Few filmmakers possess Moore's talents for engaging, amusing and exasperating viewers with an endless assault on the senses. Anathema to the right, Moore also annoys some on the left, perhaps because he is one of the few lefties who has an ability to surprise. Who else could present himself in at times disturbing chats with Heston, rock star Marilyn Manson, and James Nichols, brother of convicted Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols? Nichols shows a bemused Moore the loaded pistol he keeps under his pillow. Moore cries out, "Don't do that," as a clearly disturbed Nichols points the gun at his own head to prove what steps he'd take

to defend his farm.

"I was an NRA member as a kid," says Moore in SF. "We had some kind of junior membership when I was in Scouts. I won the NRA's marksmanship award in our area, but I wasn't a member as an adult, I don't really believe in the organization. After Columbine I wanted to do something, so I decided, 'You know what, I'm going to run against Charlton Heston for the presidency of the NRA.' You had to be a life member, so I joined as a life member, paid the dues, but then I thought, 'That's going to take too much work, so I'll just make a movie instead.'

One of the most chilling moments in *Bowling* comes when Moore runs a section of videotape captured off the school surveillance cameras. "We got the tape because we asked for it. The purpose of showing it was mainly that I wanted to show just how normal it was. There was nothing strange about Columbine, just a normal, average high school cafeteria. To me, that's more frightening than some stereotype of a horrible situation, or an inner-city school. I don't show anybody actually being shot. We do see the incredible panic that takes place among the students who are there. You see just how casually the two shooters walk around with their assault weapons through the cafeteria."

Choke point

An unexpectedly moving moment comes when Moore is talking with a middle-aged Littleton man in the home security business. "He's telling me all these things he does to make people's homes safer, and then I mention Columbine, and just the word causes him to choke up and start to cry. It's kind of a turning point

in the film, because up to that point the film is pretty funny, and suddenly the film isn't as funny anymore."

In *Roger and Me*, Moore's plot concerned his inability to ever pin down General Motors Chairman Roger Smith for some on-camera face time. In *Bowling for Columbine*, Charlton Heston plays Roger, and this time, the big guy not only talks to Moore, but their meeting at the Oscar-winning actor's gated home provides a memorable if controversial climax.

Moore says it didn't surprise him that the NRA chief would defend his pro-gun position, memorably captured in his "from these cold dead hands" soundbite. "I was surprised at how, during the interview, [Heston] thought I was there to have a gun control debate, so he was just reading from his script, repeating the same lines. 'The Second Amendment gives me the right.' I was there to talk about something else. Then, out of the blue, he states that the problem with America is our 'mixed ethnicity.' He interjected race into this. I've been dealing with race throughout the movie, so it was kind of a perfect punctuation point."

Already, the reviews for *Bowling for Columbine* are featuring the uneasy mix of praise and ambivalence that marked many liberal critics' reaction to *Roger and Me*. I ask Moore, dressed for the press like his onscreen image — the



United Artists Film, Inc.

Moore shoots from the hip, confronts Charlton Heston, tickles ivories.

pesky, avuncular, upscale farmer — whether his tendency to play hardball disturbs some on the left, torn between their liking for his views and vague unease about how he expresses them. "I read these reviews of the movie from liberals, who say, 'But I just feel so sorry for Charlton Heston the way he goes after him!' What do you mean, you feel sorry for him? That's why the right always wins. Nobody on our

side has the gumption to stand up to any of this stuff. When are we going to get the courage of our convictions? The other side, they're up at dawn trying to figure out how to screw everybody. We never see dawn, unless we stay up 'til dawn." ▼

Bowling For Columbine opens Friday at the Embarcadero.

Gerhard Richter

◀ previous page

the identity of the person in the picture.

The effect is eerie and powerful, as in *October 18, 1977*, the controversial series of 15 paintings of Baader-Meinhof, the radical terrorist group active in the '60s. In the mid-'70s, several members being held in a German prison were found dead in their cells under suspicious circumstances. The images, taken from forensic photographs and magazines and painted over in smudged blacks and grays, have a ghostly calm and the grainy unreality of black-and-white archival snapshots. The paintings, which antagonized those on both the political right and left when they were exhibited in Germany, are simultaneously distancing and disquieting. Richter achieves a similar, chilling effect with his treatment of the yearbook photos of the eight young nurses who were victims of serial killer Richard Speck.

Less engaging are the abstractions, which, for the most part, emanate remoteness. Even for his own self-portrait, Richter averts his eyes. Some of the smaller abstractions are vibrant, kaleidoscopic bursts of color, for example *Richter 858*, a suite of eight paintings produced after the artist suffered a stroke in 1998, and *Wall* (1994). The *Rhombus* series, six

brilliant orange, geometric canvases commissioned for a church designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, dazzles the eye; the subtle gradation of colors creates an illusion that the shape of the canvas is shifting and changing. The Church, seeking literal religious imagery, ultimately rejected the works.

Though overall there is a notable absence of sensuality in Richter's work, one finds warmth in the portraits of his wives, current and former, and his children. In paintings such as "Reader," reminiscent of both Fragonard and Vermeer, and "Betty" (1977, '88), which are stunning in their beauty, technical mastery and photorealistic quality, Richter bathes his subjects in an intimate golden light that suggests a cozy domesticity.

Richter, who has been called "the most radical artist of his generation," is one of a disappearing, nearly extinct breed — a true intellectual; complicated, provocative and analytical, but neither dogmatic nor simplistic in his thinking or his painting.

Overwhelming in its size and variety, the show, which takes up an entire floor of the gallery and then some, is almost as complex and difficult to describe as the man who created it. ▼

Gerhard Richter: Forty Years of Painting, through Jan. 14 at SFMOMA, 151 Third St.

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Bulgarians in Berkeley?

by Jason Serinus

Kitka - *The Vine*
(Diaphonica)

Having recently returned from an extended Eastern European sojourn where they lived in rustic villages, coached with members of Bulgaria's famed women's chorus *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*, and performed with them in concert, the eight American women of the Bay Area-based Kitka vocal ensemble are as close as you'll get to authentic Eastern European vocal styles this side of the Atlantic.



Bulgarian music is unique. As displayed on the recordings of *Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*, who created a sensation when their *Nonesuch* discs became best-sellers in the late '80s, as well as on Kitka's three CDs, vocal production is forward, strong and nasal, with minimal vibrato. The melodies' unusual harmonies, rooted in village cultures ancient and earthy, include striking juxtapositions and rhythmic sophistication. On spirited selections, occasional high-flying yips and yelps spring organically from a seemingly uncontrollable exuberance; these upbeat numbers stand in marked contrast with slower, lyrical pieces whose beauty transcends the passing of centuries.

Though their membership has changed over the years, Kitka con-



Bay Area-based women's vocal ensemble Kitka play some seasonal gigs.

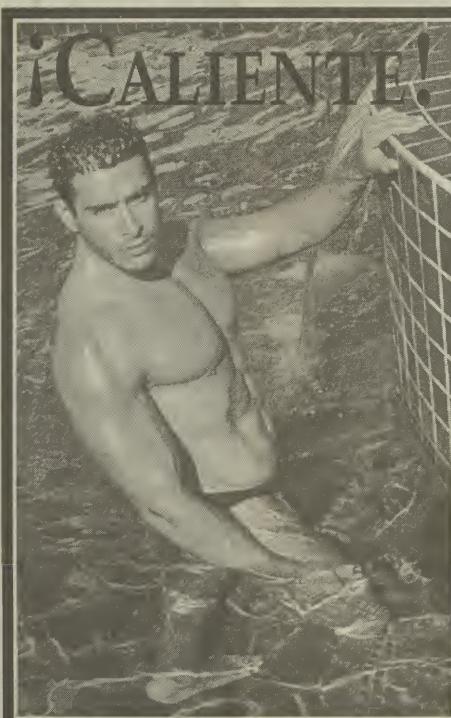
tinues to display flawless intonation, rhythmic precision, and consistent beauty of tone. Lower voices have a special warmth and roundness that balances the soprano line. Their forte singing may have less of a cutting edge than the larger *Voix Bulgares*, but their soft singing has an enviable, caressing beauty that lingers.

Flattered by the excellent acoustic of George Lucas' Skywalker Sound, Kitka offers 19 traditional selections from Bulgaria, Albania, Russia, the Ukraine, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Georgia, and Bosnia. The disc begins with a spirited arrangement of the Bulgarian "Subrali Sa Se Subrali," in which young women dozing after spinning awake to discover items of clothing missing from their bodies. Songs of family, love, wedding, harvest and sorrow follow; some feature the entire ensemble, while others are solos, duets, or trios. Twelve selections are sung *a cappella*, with others variously featuring Shirin Kammen on rebab and vielle; Peter Maund on percussion, zorb, tambourine, and

dumbek; and women's music pioneer Linda Tillery on cajón and djembe. Cheryl Ann Fulton's lever harp adds lovely warmth to "Cântec de Leagane," a heart-touching selection from Romania.

For this listener, Kitka's soft-grained, lyrical singing holds the deepest appeal. The Georgian "Shen Khar Venakhi" is gorgeous, its 12th-century lyrics and harmonies evoking a fragrant vineyard in first bloom. The innocent purity of the Russian "Kak Po Morju," at odds with its menacing lyric, and the emptiness of the Bulgarian war lament "Dor Tri Mi Pushki Puknaa" are other standouts. With the spirited yelps and superb percussion of the concluding "Po Polju," this is a disc to treasure.

Kitka accompanies and performs solo at the Oakland Ballet on Nov. 8-10. Kitka's Wintersongs holiday concert graces Healdsburg Community Church on Dec. 1, SF's St. Gregory's Church on Dec. 6, Lake Merritt Church on Dec. 13, and San Anselmo's CenterStage on Dec. 14. Call (510) 444-0323. ▼



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Cinema as metaphor

Krzysztof Kieslowski's last word in film

by Robert Julian

Filmed in Turin and the Tuscan countryside, *Heaven* tells the strange story of star-crossed lovers seeking escape from a world of diminishing options. Cate Blanchett portrays Philippa, an English widow living in Naples who attempts to address the collusion between the Italian police and local drug dealers. Her *modus operandi* is to place a bomb in the office of the local drug kingpin. Unfortunately, the bomb goes off in an elevator, killing four innocent people. When Philippa is arrested, a young Italian policeman (Giovanni Ribisi) falls in love with her and engineers her escape.

Director Tom Tykwer illuminates the fateful journey of this couple, employing an entirely different directorial approach from the one he used for *Run Lola Run*. *Heaven* carries all the stylistic hallmarks of the late, great Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski (*Blue, White, Red*), who penned this screenplay with his writing partner Krzysztof Piesiewicz. In an elegant and selfless manner, Tykwer creates a Krzysztof Kieslowski film, and the result is a beautiful and faithful homage to its author.

Cate Blanchett erases the memory of the disastrous *Charlotte Grey* with her sensitive and restrained portrayal of Philippa, a woman in a constant state of des-



Cate Blanchett and Giovanni Ribisi in Tom Tykwer's *Heaven*.

peration. And the adorable Giovanni Ribisi, decked out in his Italian policeman's uniform, looks and acts like a misplaced angel, sent to offer deliverance to Philippa. Cinematographer Frank Griebe's camera chases the actors across the Tuscan hills and through city streets with an eye for the spartan, isolated nature of the human condition. The visual setting is stunning, but the characters move through a journey where all human connections are marred by an omnipresent sense of separation, loss, and danger.

Director Tykwer respectfully adopts the languorous pace of

Krzysztof Kieslowski films for his rendering of *Heaven*. In English and Italian, the film unfolds like a poem, a meditation on moral ambiguity and the tenuous nature of life. Like all Kieslowski films, *Heaven* raises many questions and provides few answers. At the end, as a helicopter ascends into the infinite blue sky, many plot points remain unresolved. In place of answers, the filmmaker offers a simple illustration of the great human yearning for deliverance from this mortal veil of tears. ▼

Heaven opens tomorrow.



In *Hell House*'s Religious Right funhouse, a gay youth meets Death.

Hellacious

by Brandon Judell

Hell House doesn't have a Jason or a Hannibal, but it's just as scary. Director George Ratliff, who proved he has a yen for American eccentrics with his superb *Plutonium Circus*, now takes his cameras to Dallas, Texas, where the Trinity Assembly is staging *Hell House X: The Walking Dead*. Imagine a tacky stage-show directed by George Romero, and you're halfway there.

The brainchild here is a Religious Right funhouse designed for converting teenagers into Christ-followers. The proven method is having kids walk through an exhibit where gangly teen actors portray a young girl massively bleeding from an abortion, a gay youth dying from AIDS, a girl getting drugged and raped at a rave, and so forth. In the penultimate scene, the major-

ity of these sinners are denied entry to Heaven. Yes, God has the last laugh.

The true finale occurs when you've passed through all the live exhibits and are then preached at and ushered into a praying area, where you're further brainwashed. You watch the innocent faces of these kids being bantered at, and you know that within a decade, they'll be first-class haters for God.

What's to Ratliff's credit is that he really doesn't ridicule these folks. In fact, you wouldn't be surprised if the Trinity Assembly uses *Hell House* as a promotional tool, it's that objective. Ratliff's cameras were just turned on, and the astoundingly banal yet dismaying carryings-on were captured without additional editorializing spliced on. None is needed. ▼

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Counting 'The Seven Sins of Memory'

by Deborah Peifer

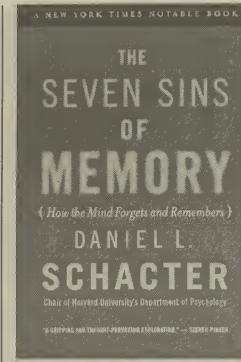
They say the memory is the second thing to go." "What's the first?" "I forgot."

I doubt there is any human faculty that provides more pleasure or more frustration than memory. When memory works, it allows us to return to happier moments and experience them again, to recall great friends, the perfect chocolate, the most extraordinary performances. But when it doesn't work as we might wish, we are faced with the missed appointment, a face for whom the name is entirely absent, and that song that won't go away. In his extraordinary book, *The Seven Sins of Memory: How the Mind Forgets and Remembers* (Houghton Mifflin, \$14), Daniel L. Schacter explains the way memory works, and reasons why it sometimes doesn't. Although this is not a self-help book, he does offer some useful tips for overcoming what he calls the seven sins of memory.

Schacter is the Chair of Harvard's Department of Psychology, and is up on the latest discoveries of the physiology of the brain, and the ways in which our brains process events to create memories, but his writing is entirely readable and absent the jargon that so often gets in the way of making things clear. I especially liked his willingness to admit to his personal memory failings, and his sense of humor about those shortcomings.

"Transience," Schacter explains, "refers to the weakening or loss of memory over time." Absent-mindedness occurs when we fail because of distraction or inattention to make a memory in the first place.

Blocking is the memory sin that seems to me the most frustrating. Blocking is that horrible sinking feeling we experience when we see someone and can remember what she likes for lunch, her birthdate and the number of her children, but not her name. Schacter explains why



we block on names, thereby providing a good scientific reason (so much better than an excuse)

to proffer when the name is nowhere to be found, not even on the tip of the tongue.

These three sins are sins of omission; the last four, misattribution, suggestibility, bias and persistence, are all sins of commission. We remember some things wrongly; other times we vividly remember events that never occurred. We allow personal feelings to color our memories, and we remember horrible events that we would just as soon forget.

Schacter illuminates the ways and means of memory with style and grace. He repeats things just often enough that I appreciated. Finally, having explored the sins of memory, he suggests that those very sins may in fact be memory's great strength. He explores the ways that the ability to forget, to perform on auto-pilot, to generalize, to face our worst recollections, are all means by which memory serves us well. *The Seven Sins of Memory* is a fascinating read, well worth your time and treasure.

Book Report

Cry freedom
When the Supreme Court awarded the Presidency to the Shrub, I thought, "How bad can it be?" When John Ashcroft was named Attorney General, I thought, "Oh, that bad." Then came 9/11, and the Shrub and his pal took that dreadful day as license to assault the Constitution.

Claiming powers never hinted at by the Founders, Junior and his gang are making every effort to reduce civil liberties while doing little to make us or the world a safer place. Despite the Administration's efforts at secrecy, brave judges, lawyers, politicians and citizens are standing up to these anti-democratic, anti-American actions. Speaking out, demonstrating, and writing, they call on each of us to stand for liberty and against the powers of repression.

It's a Free Country: Personal Freedom in America After September 11 (edited by Danny Goldberg, Victor Goldberg and Robert Greenwald; RDV/Akashic, \$19.95) is a stunning collection of essays that looks at the history of civil liberties and the efforts of Presidents from Adams to Lincoln to Roosevelt to Bush to limit our liberties, always in the name of greater security. As Cornel West asserts in the Foreword, "We simply declare that 'It's a Free Country,' precisely because past and present citizens of all colors, cultures, and religions have fought to make it free and safe — even against those well-intended citizens who would curtail our basic liberties in the security." Read this book, and then meet me at the barricades.

The fallout continues

The bankruptcy of book distributor LPC continues to threaten the very existence of queer publishers. The women at New Victoria Publishers, home to such lesbian luminaries as Sarah Dreher, Kate Allen, Tinker Marks, Jenny Scholten, Rebecca Béguin, Jean Marcy, *et alia*, are sweating out the next few months, as they won't have a new distributor until January 2003, haven't been paid for books that were sold before the bankruptcy, and have very little in the way of cash flow. I can tell you that they will have two new books out this month, a new Jean Marcy, and a mystery by new author Robin Brandeis. These are available for individual sale at NewVictoria.com, as are the other books that make New Victoria an important press for those of us who love to read. Do everyone a favor and skip over to their website, start that holiday shopping early, buy some books, and be a friend indeed to a fine press. ▼

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Hostess w/mostest

Lilianne Montevercchi joins ZinZanni

by Richard Dodds

Lilianne Montevercchi's long career is so varied that it isn't surprising to find her now performing in a tent. But it's not just any tent where the *Folies Bergère* veteran and Tony winner will be making her professional home for the next three months. Instead, it's the bijou-like *spiegeltent* that Teatro ZinZanni pitched on Pier 29 to house its propulsive variation on dinner theater.

Beginning next week, Montevercchi takes over the role of the singing host of a show that combines circus acts, cabaret turns, audience participation, and a five-course dinner served with sometimes alarming velocity.

"It's madness," Montevercchi said of the show. "But it will be a lot of fun for me because I get to do what I want to do. I love to have contact with the people. And I'll get to sing some of my songs. I'll probably start with 'Je cherche un millionnaire,' because it's my trademark, and I will sing some Piaf and Mistinguett songs, and something from *Irma La Duce*, because I did it on Broadway."

But she won't be singing "Folies Bergère," her show-stopping number from the musical *Nine* that helped cinch a Tony Award in 1982. "We thought about it," she said, "but I don't think it goes."

Songwriter Maury Yeston wrote "Folies Bergère" expressly for Montevercchi when director Tommy Tune created a role for her. When Tune returned to Broadway in 1989 with *Grand Hotel*, he cast Montevercchi in the role of the faltering prima ballerina who falls for a handsome young thief.

Both roles actually reflect periods in Montevercchi's own career, which had its beginnings when the Paris native joined Roland Petit's ballet company at age 18. Years later, she returned to Paris for 10 years with *Folies Bergère*. In-between came a half-hearted Hollywood career that nevertheless found her working with Fred Astaire in *Daddy Longlegs* and Elvis Presley in *King Creole*.

"I quit the ballet to go to Hollywood," she said, "because they gave me a seven-year contract at MGM. I was one of the last ones to have a seven-year contract, but I left after four years. I didn't like it too much."

She laughed as she recalled a vacation in Acapulco during her MGM years. "I stayed for six months," she said. "I just forgot to go back. But then they said they weren't going to send any more checks, so I had to go back."

The young Montevercchi clearly wasn't a workaholic. "No," she agreed, "because I was so young and so excited. But now I'm a workaholic. Now that I'm retired, I don't stop working."

She was speaking from her apartment in New York, a residence she hardly ever sees. "Last year I was here two months," she said. "This year I have been here just a week. I'm a gypsy, a luxury gypsy."

After her San Francisco run with Teatro ZinZanni, she heads off to the UK to tour as Madame Dubonnet in *The Boy Friend*,



Montevercchi loves to have contact.

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So over the rainbow

Doing Judy!, which recently opened and closed at the Alcazar Theatre, wasn't as bad as its abbreviated run would indicate. But clearly it was a commercially misbegotten affair. For starters, the LA import had a cast of 15, far too expensive for a show that has its biggest appeal among those with arcane knowledge of Judy Garland.

Don Evan's play with lip-synch landed some big laughs, many assisted by Todd Sherry's savvy delivery of a consummate Judy impersonator. Too often, though, the play bogged down in its ridiculous murder-mystery plot. Top-billed Zach Galligan, as a straight cop ordered to go undercover in Garland drag, displayed little affinity for the material, which muted the central joke.

Mostly, *Doing Judy!* proved another curious and costly example of what out-of-town producers sometimes think local and tourist audiences want to see in San Francisco. Remember *Miss Desmond Behind Bars*? Probably not, just as *Doing Judy!* will become another bit of trivia invoked when the conversation turns to bad theatrical ideas gone wrong. ▶

Reach Richard Dodds at BARstage@aol.com.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendar

by Jim Provenzano

Spart

Of the nearly 200 people savagely bombed to death by terrorists in Bali last week, several were Australian and American rugby players.

This is not to say that a fourteen-year-old waitress who took Balinese dance lessons from the age of five wasn't any less tragic a loss, nor a Swedish ornithologist and his wife of forty years, nor anyone.

Things are scary all over.

Amid these doubleungood times, after fours years of development, the expected financial fumbles, Sydney will welcome thousands of visitors from around the globe. They'll compete, celebrate athleticism, artistry and Sydney hopes—spend their money.

Should the financial problems reported by the *Sydney Star Observer* result in last-minute budget cuts, which would lose more, art or sport?

What about bomb-sniffing dogs and their owners? Shouldn't they be given a big raise about now?

Security risk management aside, Gay Games should be a time to celebrate our unity and affection, an increasingly rare connection.

Whether you go rally-monkeying in the streets painted orange and black, or ignore the Giants fan frenzy if you're more into culture, consider the big picture of the sport/art debate, which is merely a matter of wardrobe. A leap on a grassy field's as balletic as the sweat-flinging athleticism of a triple pirouette.

Ballroom dancers often get volleys of differing opinions about their status in competition. I'd say Baz Luhrman cleared that up. So what if they wear tuxes and gowns?

With several hundred Bay Areans, including 80 bowlers, 10 softball players, forty swimmers, drag artists, band members, performers, writers, fans, dozens of tennis players, entire water polo and rugby teams, volleyball squads, fourteen wrestlers, a dozen golfers, and an entire fleet of sailors; with almost 800 Germans, five hundred Brits, footy players, surfers, people from Wales, Ireland, Spain, China, Montreal, Lima, soccer teams from Italy, Perth, Indonesia, half dozen Croatian soccer players, Ben Arthur, k.d. lang, and other people you know going, I'd say this: Wish all a safe journey.

"Going for the Gold," a benefit performance and party event, sends off Sydney-bound ballroom dancers, includes World Exhibition champion Tom Slater, Tianne Frias, Richard Lambert, Jeffrey Claussen and many other nationally-

ranked dance floor artists, er, athletes. October 18, 7:30pm at the Metronome Ballroom, \$50 VIP tickets include a private Salsa lesson, hors d'oeuvres and passes to the private Star-69 party at Club Pow. \$20 includes the performance, dance lessons in Viennese Waltz, Salsa and City Swing, where you can cut a rug, 7:30pm - 9pm, then go to the party. Metronome Ballroom, 1830 17th St at DeHaro. (415) 252-9000. www.metronomeballroom.com ▶



Ballroom dancers
Tom Slater and
Richard Lambert.



Hello, Carol: Miss Channing gets booked. See Friday.



848 Community Space

"All Women, All Improv," performance and participatory jam presented by 848 Community Space and CounterPULSE. A collection of the Bay Area's finest performers display their movement improvisation, action theatre, and storytelling talents. Featuring Kim Epifano, Judy Sacks, Linda Carr, Heather Harpham, Jenny Schaffer, Cassie Terman, Elizabeth Frye, Cinzia Spero Goeckler, Krista DeNio and Tanya Calamoneri. The audience is invited to stay and jam after the performance. \$10. 8pm. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Info: 706-9535.

Books Inc.

Carol Channing, star of a gazillion performances of "Hello, Dolly!" and other theatrical hits that spawned a thousand drag impersonators, will sign copies of her breezy corny, affable memoir, "Just Lucky I Guess." 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. 864-6777.

Fort Mason

"New Jersey Book of the Dead," Jason Spiegel-Grote's play, is part of the continuing series of staged readings as part of Dramarama 2002. Different plays each Friday thru Nov. 8. \$5-\$10. 7:45pm. Blue Bear School of Music, Bldg. D, 2nd fl. 626-4603. www.playwrightscentersf.org.

In the Street Fest, Ellis St.

The Luggage Store/509 Cultural Center presents the 8th Annual "In The Street" Festival, kicking off tonight with a

Cohen Alley Tree Planting by Artist Kevin Leeper, with Sup. Matt Gonzalez and Mayor Willie Brown, followed by performances by Cambodian Teen Dancers, Krissy Keefer and Dance Brigade, Miya Masaoka, InkBoat, Nao Bustamante and Mads Lynnerup, Mark Growden, Vile Jelly, & MC Kevin Caulfield. Free. 5-10pm. 500 block of Ellis Street (btwn) Leavenworth & Hyde. Info: 255-5971; www.luggagestore-gallery.org

The LAB

"Plastic: A Trip Through the Membrane," a multimedia performance presented by The LAB in association with Climate Theatre. Featuring multiprojector and multispeaker environments, sensor-driven audiovisual performances, and Butoh dance. Created by Aaron Wolf Baum, Ph.D. (Doctor Friendly), in collaboration with Butoh dancer

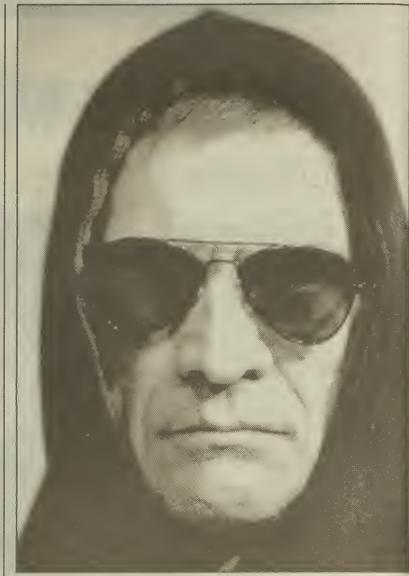
Ledoh, performance director Steven Raspal, live soundscape artist Alaric Burns (Insect Funeral), actress Machiko Saito, clothing designer Lou Lin, and digital animator Thomas Williams (Biomorphic). \$7-\$10 sliding. 8pm. Also on Oct. 19, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Tix/info: 864-8855.

MAX TGIF @ Metro

Twice a month MAX (Men's Associated Exchange) members and guests gather at a popular venue for "after work" cocktails and socializing. The socializing begins at 6pm and runs till 9pm, when many members get together for dinner at local restaurants. Guests admitted without charge. Metro is located in the heart of the Castro, upstairs at 16th & Market sts. Info: www.maxonline.org

Red Vic

George Ratliff's documentary



In the Hood: Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs at the Magic Theatre. See Saturday.

"Hell House" follows a creepy tour of a Dallas Pentacostal church's Haunted House idea of what's scary, i.e., abortion girl, AIDS guy, drunk driving deaths and school shootings. Their naive sincerity is far more frightening. \$4.50 - \$6.50. 7:15, 9:15 also 2pm & 4pm Sat/Sun. Thru Oct. 23. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994. www.redvicmoviehouse.com

Ruby's Clay Studio

Clark Sorenson's flower-shaped urinal sculptures sweeten the subject once made famous by Marcel Duchamp. Opening reception 5:30pm. Thru Oct. 28. 552-A Noe St. 558-9819.

Sali Lieberman Studio

Scott Capurro's "Erect in Marin" showcases his eccentric solo stand-up humor. \$20. 8pm. Also Sat at 8pm & 10pm. 397 Miller Ave., Mill Valley. 541-5610. www.qcomedy.com/scott

La Val's

Subterranean, Berkeley

Impact Theatre presents "Working for the Mouse," written and performed by Trevor Allen, directed by Kent Nicholson. A one-man tour-de-force about Trevor's misadventures as a character/cast member in the "Happiest Place on Earth."

Under layers of fur and disillusionment, Trevor yearns to shed his Pluto costume for the ultimate role: Peter Pan. \$12 (\$7 seniors/students). 8pm Fri. & Sat.; 7pm Sun. Thru Nov. 16. 1834 Euclid, Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 464-4468 www.impacttheatre.org

MAX @ L'Atelier Studio Gallery

"MAX Pre-Halloween Costume Party." Masquerade in the heart of the Castro. Men in uniform.

sary with performances of King's 1994 "Ocean," and a new work with live music by jazz saxophonist Rasta Thomas. Flamenco dancers La Tania and spanish singer Jesus Montoya also perform in "Canté." \$20-50. 8pm. Thru Sun (7pm). 701 Mission at 3rd. 797-ARTS. www.linesballet.org



Galleria Design Center

"Hoedown 2002," a gala benefit for the AIDS/Breast Cancer Emergency Funds, and the main event of "Sundance Stampede." SF's country-western dance weekend (Oct. 18-20), presented by The Sundance Association for Country Western Dancing, serving the GLBT community. Two stepping and line dancing, with entertainment by The Barbary Coast Cloggers,

the Men of the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar, a giant raffle, a silent auction and more. \$30 adv.; \$40 door. 8pm-1am. 101 Henry Adams. Tix/info: 820-1403.

Magic Theatre

"Ted Kaczynski Killed People With Bombs," Michelle Carter's seriocomic fact-fictional drama with songs, explores the life of the Unabomber, and the tragically topical subject of terrorism. Previews thru Oct. 24. runs thru Nov. 10. \$10-37. 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org



La Cage Aux Folles: Culberg Ballet's Swan Lake. See Wednesday.

Men in tights. Men in leather. Men dancing. Men having a blast! Hosted bar, music and dancing. \$20 members; \$25 guests. 8pm-midnight. 2354 Market St. (at Castro St.). Tix/info: www.maxonline.org

Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church

The Imperial Council of San Francisco, Inc. presents "San Francisco Hollywood Style," the 29th annual Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco Pageant. The Imperial Court of SF is a member of the Int'l. Court Council. Absolute Empress I José, the Widow Norton, founded the SF court 37 years ago to unite the gay community and raise funds for charity. Cheer on your favorite contestant and join in the fun-filled evening. \$15 adv.; \$20 door. Doors open 6pm; pageant at 7pm. MHR Rec Hall, 100 Diamond St. Tix at Marlena's (488 Hayes St.).

In the Street Fest, Ellis St.

The Luggage Store/509 Cultural Center's 8th Annual "In the Street" Festival continues today with a procession with Extra Action Marching Band, plus MoLove Steel Band, Keith Hennessy and Circo Zero, Leda and Salt Farm, Aaron Novik's Ahimsa Improv Quartet and Kunststoff Dancers, Daredevil Chicken Club with Jonathon Taylor and Anne Goldman, Harupin-Ha, The Prescott Clowns, Tuju Taksu Masked Dance, Cambodian Teen Dancers, Carnival of Chaos, TeoKalli Aztec Dancers, Chitresh Das Dance Company, Steamroller, Neither Neither Puppet Theater, The Halfflowers, Peggy Honeywell, Galaxi-recording artist, Art and Revolution-SF with Dancers without Borders, Dominique Zeltzman, Soonyana Snake Dancer, Madame Ovary, Merchants of the New Bazaar, Michael Swaine, Cancion de Obsidiana, and more. Free. 11:30am-5:30pm. 500 block of Ellis Street (btwn Leavenworth & Hyde). Info: 255-5971; www.luggagestoregallery.org.

St. Gregory's of Nyssa
Slavyanka, San Francisco's acclaimed Russian male a cappella chorus, performs with the Valaam Ensemble of St. Petersburg, in a concert of sacred, historic and popular Russian and Ukrainian music. \$15-20. 8pm. Also Sun. at 7:30pm. 332-7626. www.slavyanka.org



550 Barneveld

"Sundance Saloon," Country-western dance lessons from 6-7:30pm, followed by open country-western dancing until 11pm. \$5. 21+ w/I.D. Between Oakdale & Industrial in Bayshore Blvd. corridor. Info: [sundancesaloon.org](http://www.sundancesaloon.org)

Brava Theater Center

Portuguese Fado singer Cristina Branco performs songs from her latest CD, "Corpo Illuminado" a blues and folk-influenced collection. \$25-27. 2pm & 7pm. 24th St. at York. 647-2822. www.brava.org

Club 1200

Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County hosts its annual Casino Night fundraiser, featuring raffles, prizes, and the most amusing casino action this side of Reno. 6-10 pm. 1220 Pine St. Walnut Creek. (925) 692-0900. www.rainbowcc.org

ODC Theater

Café Flamenco returns with Yaelisa and Caminos Flamencos performing intimate



Lily Loo: Clark Sorensen's unique urinals. See Friday.

Spanish dance with live accompaniment. \$10-17. 7pm. 3153 17th St. at Shotwell. 863-9834. www.odctheatre.org

Zeta Chapter @ Chalker's Pool Hall

The SF-based Zeta Chapter of Delta Lambda Phi, the national fraternity for Gay, Bisexual and Progressive Men, hosts "Another Night of Brotherhood & Billiards," a recruiting event. All men regardless of age, race, ethnicity, etc. can attend and are eligible for membership in the Fraternity. Affiliation with a school or university is not required. The Fraternity will pay for a set number of pool tables; bring your own refreshments. 4-7pm. 101 Spear St. (at Mission St.). Info: email DL.Precruitment@CAZeta@hotmail.com.



SF LGBT

Community Center

"QComedy Showcase," Monday Night Gay Comedy hosted by Blake Smith. This week's lineup includes Doug Holclaw, Tessie Chua, Lisa Geduldig, Janis Lipton, Bruce Cherry, Chantal Carrere, and Bridget Schwartz. \$8-\$15 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org; www.QComedy.com

SF Palm

In "Dress Like an Egyptian" UC Berkeley Costume emeritus professor Warren Travis

hosts a panel discussion showcasing images, videos, and costumes from Egyptian-themed opera, theatre and film. \$10-15. 6pm. Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave. 4th fl. 255-4800. www.sfpalm.org



Marin AIDS Project, San Rafael

Marin Life, for gay and bisexual men presents, "Party

Drugs," a look at popular drugs, the effects and how to minimize the risks to your health and safety. Guest Daniel Gomez. Free. 7:30-9:30pm. Marin AIDS Project, Community Room, 1660 Second Street, San Rafael. Info: Bryan 415-457-2487 ext. 112; e-mail marinlife2002@yahoo.com.

Herbst Theatre

Anne Lamott, celebrated author of five novels and the non-fiction "Operating Instructions" and "Bird by Bird," speaks of her writing career, single-mom survival tips, and being a "cranky Christian." \$18. 401 Van Ness at McAllister. 392-1400.

The Stud

At Trannyshack's "Imposter Night," drag queens impersonate each other. Which wig is which? Be afraid. Be amused. Hosted by Nikki Star as Juanita More. \$6. 10pm-3am. 9th & Harrison. www.heklina.com



Yerba Buena Center

Sweden's Cullberg Ballet makes its San Francisco debut with crossdressing aplomb in a gender-switching version of "Swan Lake," the classic ballet set to the famous Tchaikovsky score. Gala opening tonight (Call 398-6449). Other nights \$35-49. 8pm. Thru Oct. 26. 700 Howard St. at 3rd. 392-4400. www.harveymilk.org



Books Inc.

Jeffrey Eugenides, author of "The Virgin Suicides," reads from and signs copies of his latest novel, "Middlesex," about gender confusion. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. 864-6777.

Merchants Exchange Bldg.

"La Dolce Vita, a Roman Odyssey" will raise funds and celebrate the work of Shanti volunteers in a gala party,

with a silent auction, raffle, buffet and hors d'oeuvres. Enjoy sumptuous gourmet food, wine, spirits, and a coloratura soprano performance by Diana Pray. Business, Roman glamour (or Fellini-esque) attire suggested. \$200. 6pm. 674-4764. Julia Morgan Ballroom, 465 California St. www.shanti.org/

powerofcaring.org

ODC Theater

Kunst-Stoff continues its boldly physical multimedia dance work with "numerous axidents per formed" and "w," featuring guest artist Kevin Cregan, formerly of the Dutch National Ballet. \$16. 8pm. Thru Oct. 26. 3153 17th St. at Shotwell. 863-9834. www.odctheatre.org

Red Vic

"Cookers" follows a pair of thieving crystal meth addicts who hole up in an abandoned house, where they witness eerie tweak-induced hallucinations (or ghosts). \$4.50-\$6.50. 7:15, 9:25. Thru Oct. 28. Also 2pm & 4:15pm Sat/Sun. 1727 Haight St. 668-3994. www.redvic-moviehouse.com

SF LGBT

Community Center

The Harvey Milk Institute's Arts & Lecture Series presents a Michelle Tea Book Release Party for *The Chelsea Whistle*, also featuring Tara Hardy & Tara Jepsen. \$5-\$20 sliding. 7:30pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia), Room 200. Info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

WANNA SUBMIT?

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New leather tradition is born in Florida

by Mister Marcus

The Drummer saga that endured for almost two decades ended last Saturday night, Oct. 12, in St. Petersburg, Florida, as the inaugural of its replacement, International Leather Sir and International Leather Boy, played out in a concrete parking building on the grounds of the Suncoast Resort.

A record crowd saw 10 men compete for the Sir title and 10 boys compete for the boy title. The men contestants representing various US regions were: Dale Breunig (So. Calif.), John Derrick (Southeast), Tom Fierros (Southwest), Scott "Coyote" Hill (Northeast), Don Leach (Great Lakes), Dwayne Mitchell (So. Central), Lou Molnar (Florida), Mike Moran (New England), Eric Partridge (No. Calif.), and Ralph Wood (Mid-Atlantic).

It was a pleasure to join judges (Gary Vandeventer, Mark Greene, Annie Romano-Blas, Jeffrey Adler, Ryan Goldner, Andy Anderson and Will Clark) to also face boys José Gutierrez (Mid-Atlantic), Rob Hargrave (Northeast), Tim Hommel (So. Central), John Mark (Southeast), Richard Nordin (New England), Ron Wilbanks (Florida), Ed Schultz (Great Lakes), David Shorey (No. California), Tristan Steel (Northwest) and Keith Tomlin (Southwest).

There was a meet-and-greet on Thursday night, with the intro of judges and contestants and the drawing of numbers for order of appearance and drag entertainment.

On Friday night, the basket auction garnered some \$14,000 for the winners' travel fund, with an aging dude who submitted to having his beard shaved for another \$250 to add to the cause. Frank Nowicki did an excellent job with this portion. The dungeon party began later that night. The Sirs were interviewed that morning.



Mister Marcus

Southern California Leather Sir Dale Breunig of Palm Springs, Calif., and Mid-Atlantic Leather Boy José Gutierrez of Washington, DC were chosen to be the first-ever International Leather Sir and International Leather Boy, respectively, last Saturday night in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Skin storm

The boy interviews took place on Saturday, as people arrived from around the world. The Suncoast Resort handled the crowd with ease, and since it was hot and humid, there was a lot of bare skin showing, plus several "temporary" weddings, the record match-ups won by former Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather Mike Marino.

The contestants went through onstage leather image, speech and physique judging as the crowd sweltered in the dungeonlike venue. Producer Mike Zuhl promised that next year the garage will be equipped with air conditioner piping as is utilized in disco venues.

The stage was filled with a record crowd of leather titleholders, and ASL interpreter Timmy Snyder did an outstanding job with the task at hand. Frank Nowicki kept the show running smoothly, and it was over in three hours. Outgoing Drummer Boy Mark Greene and Sir Gary Vandeventer managed cohesive and eloquent step-down speeches of 10 minutes each, and both received a standing ovation.

The moment of truth arrived around 10:15 p.m. on Saturday night, with Northeast Boy Rob Hargrave winning the Golden Whip award, voted upon by the Sirs and the Boys.

The first runner-up Boy was Tristan Steel of Seattle, and the first-ever International Leather Boy is José Gutierrez of Washington, DC.

In the Sir category, Lou Molnar of the Florida region was chosen the first runner-up, and Inter-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Friday, Oct. 18

Exiles of SF gathering at the Women's Building to listen to Skeeter of Mister S expound on "Setting the Scene." Doors open 1930. Program at 2000 until 2200, interpreted for hearing-impaired.

Weekend Oct. 18-20

In Asbury Park, NJ, handsome Rob Carabelli steps aside to sash Mr. New Jersey Leather 2003 at Paradise, with a weekend of fun and games.

Oklahoma Mr. Leather competition in Tulsa, with a \$90 weekend package deal. For details: www.tulsaleather.com/tulsa.htm.

Ingu Yun & committee stage "Sundance Stampede," three days of Country/Western dancing, Friday at the Ramada Plaza Hotel from 2100 to 0100; Saturday at the Galleria Design Center with "Hoedown 2002," 2100 to 0100. Sunday, the "Stompede Ball" at 550 Barnveld. Complete info: www.stompede.com, or (415) 820-1403.

Saturday, Oct. 19

Celebration/victory party for International Leather Sir Dale Breunig at Wolf's in San Diego, beginning at 2100.

Mr. and Ms. Gay San Francisco competition at Most Holy Redeemer Church, with doors open at 1800 and contest at 1900. \$15 in advance or \$20/door, available at Diva's, Marlena's and Club

Rendez-Vous.

Sunday, Oct. 20

Cal Eagles MC beer/soda bust "Oktoberfest" at the Eagle from 1500-1800, \$8, theme, food, and atmosphere.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. You should by now know the rules: leather, latex, uniform, boots, no cologne, no sneakers. If you're not sure, call 777-HEAD.

Weekend Oct. 25-26

Mr. Hayes Valley Leather contest at Marlena's when Michael Schaefer passes the sash. Judges: Laura Federico, Alan Selby, Tony Koester and Yours Truly. Thanks, Michael, for a great year with the title.

Saturday, Oct. 26

The 15 Association monthly party, at the usual venue with the usual rules. Info: 673-0452, or www.the15association.org.

Sunday, Oct. 27

SF Leather Dyke Boy "Bronze" hosts "A Bite Nite" Halloween party at Daddy's from 1600 to 2000, to benefit BCEF.

Gowns fit for a queen

by Sweet Lips

Are you looking for a great gown to wear to the upcoming royal pageant, or for Halloween? You'll find lots of great stuff, including all the necessary drag accessories, at "Passion for Fashion II," an evening gown and fashion auction and sale, happening Sun., Oct. 20, 3 p.m. at Club Tango Tango, 1550 California St. at Polk.

You'll definitely want to don your best gay apparel for the annual Mr. & Miss Gay San Francisco 2003 pageant taking place on Sat., Oct. 19 in the recreation hall of Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, organized by the Imperial Court of San Francisco. Fernando Robles (Mr. Gay SF 2002) and Holly Gramm (Miss Gay SF 2002) will be passing on their titles to new winners. So come on out and have a gay old time.

You'll find some great gay duds in Out of the Closet, the new thrift store at Polk & California, which has opened to great fanfare and acclaim. All proceeds benefit HIV/AIDS healthcare provided by AIDS Healthcare Foundation /Magic Johnson Clinic, a very worthy organization.

Also on Sunday, Oct. 20, it's the 49ers vs. New Orleans here at Club Rendez-Vous, where we'll be having a 10 a.m. Cajun Buffet. Come fill up and hang around for the action on big-screen TV (not to mention several smaller screens,



Cocktail Hour

Miss Gay SF 2002 Holly Gramm and Mr. Gay SF 2002 Fernando Robles

and a private mezzanine level). Guess the exact score and win a bar tab! Win officially licensed NFL merchandise! Then, at 1 p.m., Jim and Birdie will present a 70th birthday party for the great Jay

"Ethel" Nooman, who sings like Ethel Merman. Jay used to have the restaurant

Brooklyn Jay's at the Club Doric, and the event will be catered by the one and only Dennis Tyler. If you haven't been

to the Club R-V lately, now's the time to come in and get acquainted. David Kapp does the best bar in the city!

Bob Golovich, original publisher of the SF Sentinel, is at home recuperating from triple bypass heart surgery, and is doing quite well, according to Nurse Stern. But no doubt he'd appreciate your get-well cards and flowers!

Don't forget Club R-V's Joshua Jones hosts Karaoke night here every Wednesday, from 8 p.m. to midnight, some come on in and sing your hearts out! ▼

gone forever, but the legacy of the title continues. Congratulations are in order to Mike Zuhl and the DCI organization on the successful inaugural effort of what is hoped will be an ongoing title competition.

The staff of Tom Kiple's Sun-coast Resort and all the volunteers are to be congratulated on a wonderful weekend, which ended on Sunday with the huge "Man-sweat" dance party. Int'l Leather Sir Dale Breunig will be feted at a

congratulatory party at 2100 on Sat., Oct. 19 at Wolf's in San Diego. You can phone in your congratulation message ahead of time by calling (619) 507-1112.

Since I was out of town for most of last week and the weekend, I could not cover any events locally, but will be back in the swing of local events next week. Until then, stay happy, healthy, giving and helpful. Just do it in leather. See you next week! ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

national Leather Sir 2002 was Dale Breunig of Palm Springs, Ca. There was bedlam in the garage as hordes of cameras flashed like firecrackers at the Chinese New Year parade, and a rush to the stage to congratulate the winners.

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PARTING GLANCES

9/29 Pilsner @ Pooltable
You and your girl in a cap blu jkt sat in corner. Me- blu t-shirt military style like your chin scruff, you liked my hair. Wished I talked more. Single? Meet? ☎ 72098

"Son's Party" Sept 29 6pm
Frie(-?) "Loved Your Horns" My own Devil! Had a very nice time with you the whole evening. Let's hook up once again, I'm your Angel, "Black Star Power!" ☎ 72099

Admired You At Folsom Fair
2pm on sidewalk near 11th. As we passed, I said, "I sure could have fun with those," you smiled pun your face. You people and said "I'm not gay?" I said yes. We talked for a few minutes but it was noisy and I was distracted by the flopping dance. Then we moved on. You big skin, big chest and nipples, hearing aids? Me: in tan shirt and cap. Lets have that fun. ☎ 72100

Andrew @ The Eagle Sat Sept 28
You smile bright saying "hi". I was stupid and shy, Will from Portland with his leather coat. Can we try again? Be in SF for two weeks soon. Call please. ☎ 72108

-Pets Unlimited Oct 5 9pm~
You: cute guy with friend picking up her dog. Me: cute guy with friend picking up her dog. Let's get together without the dogs and friends! Woof! ☎ 72109

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Gay Parent In Contra Costa County
40's Asian, easy going, youthful for movies, dining, gardening? Quiet times. Looking for GWM 40-50yo for quality time. ☎ 72081

"Young Cute Russian"!
In search for another cute smart cultured guy (American or European) to share life together and all its pleasures. Under 40 only. ☎ 72082

* Oral Sex Buddy*
Lean hairy muscular body on tall mature GWM seeking a similar funny, in-shape, 40+, poz GWM. Enjoy regular oral sessions, nipp work, JO, kissing, endless caressing, making love. Forget anal observations, top/bottom, cock size. If attractive and sex are satisfying, let's play often and get to know each other. I am together and fun. U82. ☎ 72083

Great Man 4 Lean Hairy Hung Top
Very nice man, passionate, affectionate, masculine, fit, muscular, very handsome seeks another nice man over 35 that is fit, hairy, hairy, masculine, with mustache or goatee, cu a plus. ☎ 72084

"Mixed Or Latino"!
Young 18-30 slim or muscular guy with swollen nipples and nice round butt. Need love. I'm here for you. No fat or lemons, must be serious. ☎ 72085

Fate Or Fems Not
GWM, 51'10", 50ch, loving, caring, warming very patient, honest, trusting, kissable, aggressive HIV- and loyal. Want to be a good looking nice round butt and swollen nipples. ☎ 72086

"Anyone In The North Bay Sober!"
Me 32 Italian/Caucasian 5'9", 165lbs, drk hair, hazel eyes, work out, handsome. You: attractive, sexy, fun outgoing and gay. No "closed cases". I'm 4 months sober and fit. ☎ 72101

One Good Man Wanted For Lover
White man, 49, 6'20lbs brown hair blue eye bottom or top love oral seeking a White man 40-60 for long term relationship. ☎ 72102

This Could Be The One
G.B.M. 51y.o., 5'9", 180lbs well-rounded, masculine yet gentle, patient, understanding. Want to share long-term & fulfilling relationship with warm loving senior man. Let's talk. ☎ 72103

* Mature Men*
WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. ISO older men for lots of cuddling, kissing & oral pleasure. Poss Ittr. Brust, oral hair, non-smg, loner A+. Not into gay scene of lifestyle. ☎ 72110

Beefy Guy Wanted
Professional, HIV-, stocky guy wants to meet sweet beefy guy for dates eroticism & possible tr. No marriage nor committed. Please. ☎ 72111

Stopt! I'm The One Your Looking For
GLM, 31, 5'7", 195lbs, sexy, cute, football player, looking for msc. brm. Brm/hair/eyes, shaved head w/ goatee. Drug/disease free. ISO monogamous brm/tpm 30-42, intellectual, passionate. Fun times is your reward. ☎ 72112

Love, Bulk, Harry Fun & Maybe Romance
Very aggressive, muscular, hairy, hairy, hairy. Seeking a fit, hairy, 45+, extremely lean man into nips, endless touching, caressing, kissing. I am healthy Pz, oral, fun, interesting, affectionate, passionate. If you like mature, muscular, hairy men, I am 5'11", 185. Maybe dating if chemistry, sex, and interests match up. ☎ 72113

Hot Daddy, Hard Body, BB
With highbrow tastes, leftist politics and a big cock seeks approx. duplicate of self but any cute clever guy might do. Try it. ☎ 72114

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Young submissive boy!
Is looking for a dominant top or group of tops for long intense sessions. The boy is smooth, cute and very eager. Please be under 40. ☎ 72087

Shutterbugs!!
WM, 60, 6'250lbs, chubby, sexually uninhibited, loves being on the lens side of a camera, got the pic. ☎ 72088

Hot Blond GWM, 21.
And older friend seek guys interested in small group sex sessions on a bi-monthly basis. All races welcome. Must be 18-30, healthy and fit. Santa Cruz. ☎ 72089

Cute Smooth Asian Boy
Seeks hung muscular men to get to know. My hobbies ranging from comics, karaoke, video games. I seek some honest out going NS, ND men very oral. ☎ 72090

Young 18-19"
Safe sex only no condoms no sex. Swollen nipples, round butt, slim or muscular body is a plus. GWM, 51, 5'10", 160, 250+, loves naked bodies no fats or farts. ☎ 72091

"Halloween Dream"
GWM, 49, total top, 6'210#, 8x6, HIV neg. Visiting SF 10/30-11/3. Seeks intelligent, squeaky-clean music, bottom guide under 40 for fun/safe sex. ☎ 72092

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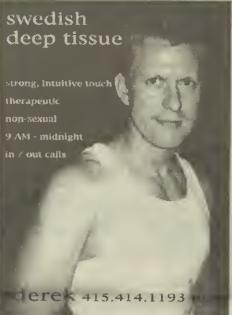
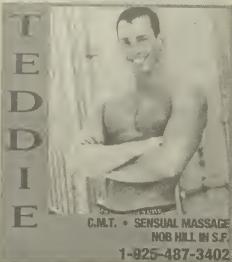
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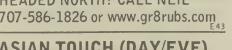
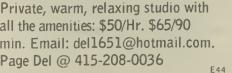
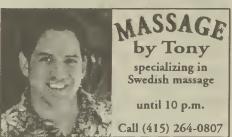
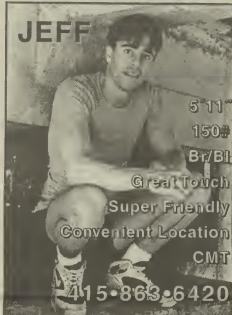
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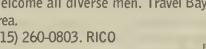
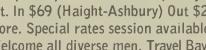
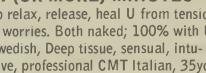
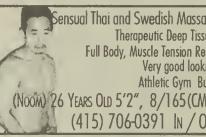
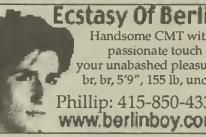
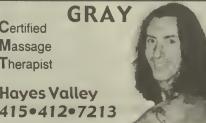
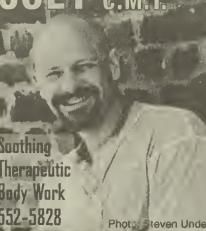


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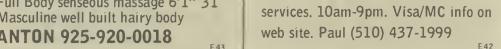
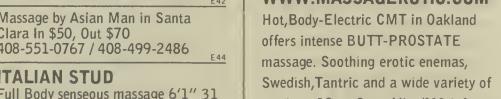
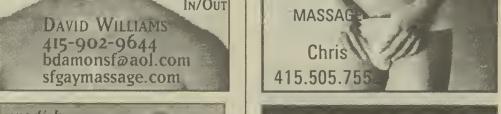
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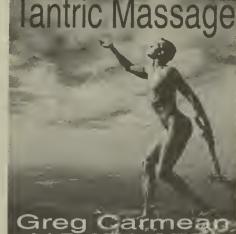
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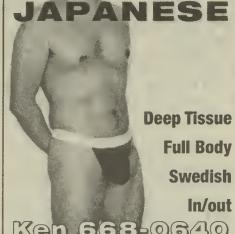
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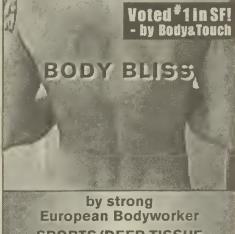
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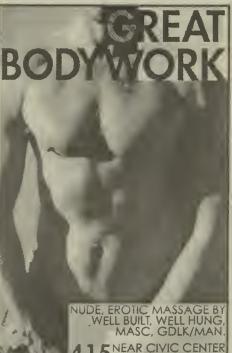
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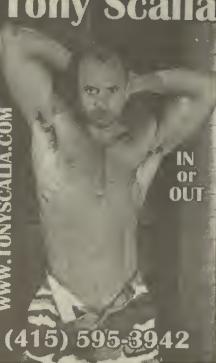
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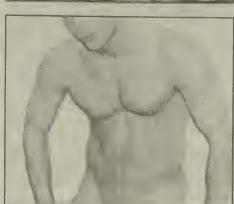
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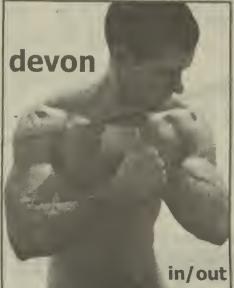
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